

### 3-day national mourning in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Court on Friday announced a three-day mourning period as of Saturday in a show of sorrow and grief over Friday's massacre of dozens of Palestinians at the Ibrahimi Mosque in the occupied Palestinian town of Hebron. A statement issued by the Royal Court said: "Upon directives of His Majesty King Hussein, and with great sorrow and grief, the Royal Court announces a three-day period of mourning as of Saturday, Ramadan 16 of 1414 Hijri, Feb. 26 of 1994, to mourn the death of Palestinian worshippers who were murdered today while performing prayers at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. The Royal Court condemns and denounces this heinous crime and implores God the Almighty to bless the souls of the martyrs."

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### Cabinet: Israel responsible for massacre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers late Friday met to discuss the massacre of Palestinians in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and the ensuing developments. The Cabinet affirmed in a statement it issued to vowing the meeting that Israel should shoulder full responsibility for the massacre and urged an end to Jewish terrorist acts committed against Palestinians. It called for disarming Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and for removing settlements from the territories and providing protection for the Palestinians there. The Council of Ministers also appealed to the international community to work on preventing such incidents through providing protection for the Palestinian people and to ensure the Palestinians legitimate rights through reaching a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem by ensuring Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including Jerusalem.

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# Massacre at Hebron mosque

## At least 60 Palestinians gunned down by one or more settlers Israeli troops kill 10 more

HEBRON (Agencies) — One of more settlers gunned down at least 60 Palestinians and wounded dozens more at a Hebron mosque on Friday igniting fierce clashes which left 10 more dead across the Israeli-occupied territories.

In the worst-ever carnage by settlers, American-born doctor Baruch Goldstein donned his uniform as an Israeli army reserve major to penetrate the Ibrahimi mosque at the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

As hundreds of Muslims knelt for dawn prayers he opened fire with a Galil automatic rifle and lobbed three grenades before being killed or killing himself.

According to differing versions, he either turned the gun on himself, was shot dead by someone unknown or beaten down with iron bars by worshippers.

The army insisted the 35-year-old orthodox Jew acted alone. But some Palestinian witnesses disputed the story.

Azziz Al Hashmami, 40, said

he saw "four to five" gunmen open fire, but did not know how they escaped. Hussein Iss Al Rajabi, 42, said a second settler fed the gunman with ammunition as he raked worshippers.

Iman Ibrahim Abidin, who was leading Friday prayers said: "The shots came from several directions. It was a veritable bloodbath."

But another Palestinian who was in the mosque said Goldstein was alone and reloaded his rifle with at least three of the four or five bullet clips he carried.

Between 20 to 30 Jewish settlers led by an Israeli army captain carried out the massacre, official Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo said.

Mr. Abed Rabbo rejected Israel's "lying version" of the attack.

"The PLO blames the Israeli government and its army for this crime," Mr. Abed Rabbo said at a press conference in

Tunis.

Witness Mohammad Suleiman Abu Saleh, 33, a guard at the mosque, said there were up to 800 worshippers inside.

"He was trying to kill as many as possible. The floor of the mosque was full of bodies and blood. Worshippers who were kneeling down at the time tried to run away in fright and some hit the ground."

"I shouted to the army to come and stop him. But they ran away. He changed his magazine at least once. At least seven people were killed instantly. Their brains were spilled on the ground," Mr. Abu Saleh told Reuters.

"He shot for 10 minutes," he said. "The army did not intervene until the massacre was over."

Faisal Hussein, PLO Chairman Arafat's senior aide in Jerusalem, called for an investigation into the army's reported failure to stop the gunman. He also called for the disarming of the estimated 120,000 settlers in the occupied



Palestinians evacuate the dead and injured from the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron (AFP photos)



West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The massacre ignited violent protests throughout the occupied territories and at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, one of Islam's holiest shrines.

Hospital officials said 79 Palestinians were killed and about 170 wounded in the Hebron mosque shooting and subsequent violence. Hospital officials estimated that at least

60 people were killed in the mosque.

The attack was the bloodiest since Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war. It threatened to set back the peace talks that were only weeks away from agreement on Palestinian autonomy and troop withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank region of

Jericho.

An anonymous telephone caller to AFP in Jerusalem claimed responsibility for the killing in the name of Jewish extremists.

The caller said the massacre was to avenge the Dec. 6 shooting by Islamic fundamentalists of an Israeli settler and his son, Mordechai and Shalom Lapid, in Hebron.

The caller said he represented the "Zealots of the God of Israel," an unknown group.

A group calling itself the "Organisation of Avengers" called Israel army radio and said the killing was in reprisal for the November 1990 shooting death of Rabbi Meir Kahane in New York.

Reporters who arrived at the scene after the attack saw

blood on the stairs and hundreds of shoes lined up outside the mosque that had been left by the worshippers.

"Suddenly I heard shots. I turned around and saw a man with a beard and black kippa (skullcap) who started shooting at people. I heard people screaming. I lay on the floor

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## Clinton summons Israel, PLO to non-stop talks

### Arafat brushes aside Rabin's apology, says massacre will backfire on peace

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton said Friday that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed to resume peace talks here in the wake of the Hebron mosque massacre.

Mr. Clinton said that Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and asked them to "remain in continuous session until the work is completed."

"They both have agreed to do that," Mr. Clinton said after sharply condemning the attack in a mosque packed with Muslim worshippers that left at least 60 dead and dozens injured as "a gross act of murder."

The negotiators would come to Washington for talks aimed at breaking the logjam of terms blocking implementation of a historic peace agreement

signed last year at the White House which provides for Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Clinton said it "was no coincidence" that what he said was a lone gunman struck during the Holy Month of Ramadan and that his purpose was to ruin the peace process already underway.

During a White House news conference, the president called on all sides "to exercise maximum restraint in what we all understand is a terribly emotional situation."

He urged all parties not to succumb to extremists on both sides who are "determined to drag Arabs and Israelis back into the darkness of unending conflict and bloodshed."

"The answer now is to redouble our efforts to conclude the talks between Israel and the PLO and begin the implementation of the agreement they have made as rapidly as possible."

Mr. Christopher also strongly condemned the Hebron massacre in an earlier prepared statement and called on all parties to the Middle East peace process not to be deterred by the killings.

Mr. Christopher said the act appeared to have been carried out by a lone gunman, though Palestinian witnesses said up to five Jewish settlers joined the shooting.

Earlier Friday, the State Department warned American citizens after the Hebron massacre not to travel to East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza and to be cautious while travelling in the Middle East and Europe.

"Americans travelling throughout the Middle East and Europe should exercise special caution by being particularly aware of their surroundings, avoiding all crowds

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## No mystery over how worshippers died but fate of gunman unknown

HEBRON (AP) — It was about 5:45 a.m. in the Ibrahimi Mosque, and you could have heard a pin drop as 800 Muslim worshippers knelt in neat rows, their heads bowed in dawn prayer.

Then, shots rang out. A bearded gunman, standing near the tomb of the Biblical patriarch Sarah, fired from his automatic Galil rifle, which can spit out bullets at the rate of 750 per minute.

The shooter, immigrant physician Baruch Goldstein of New York, was about one metre from the closest line of worshippers, their backs turned to him.

When the first clip was spent, he threw a grenade, emptied three more magazines and hurled two more grenades, said worshipper Abdul Hafez Idries who escaped unharmed. Other witnesses quoted by news agencies said there were at least five other settlers with Goldstein.

Several minutes later, when Goldstein was done shooting, there were dozens killed and scores more wounded on the

carpeted floor of the mosque, which is part of the Tomb of the Patriarchs compound.

Worshipper Maher Imam said survivors clobbered Goldstein with shoes, chair legs and a fire extinguisher, and one man gripped Goldstein's throat.

"It was so slippery from the blood that I fell twice to the ground," said Mr. Imam, 39. The army insisted Goldstein committed suicide but would not give details.

There was no word on his body. Survivors carried out the dead and wounded on prayer mats and straw carpets. They used strips of clothing and head scraps to bandage wounds.

"I carried seven dead outside," said Mohammad Abu Saleh, a mosque guard. "I carried with my hands two boys, about eight or nine years old. Both were dead. I started crying."

The mosque's muezzin Jamil Naisheh, had been struck by grenade shrapnel that ripped apart the back of his skull and killed him instantly," Mr. Abu

Saleh said.

During the shooting, there was no escape. Goldstein stood in front of the only exit leading out of the packed mosque, which measured about 20 metres by 30 metres.

Several soldiers were posted outside but apparently could not get in to stop the gunman, said Israeli Cabinet Minister Yair Tsaban, speaking after being briefed by army officials.

"There is only one entrance, and once the shooting started, there was a massive rush on the entrance," Mr. Tsaban told reporters.

"An army officer in charge tried to get inside when he heard the shooting. He has pushed out by the worshippers who were trying to get the injured out."

With word of the massacre spreading in Hebron, a Palestinian town of 80,000, private cars and vans began pulling up in front of the downtown compound to take the wounded to hospitals.

At Ahli Arab Hospital, set

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## Jordan demands settlements be dismantled

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Friday strongly condemned the massacre of more than 60 Palestinian worshippers by an Israeli settler in a Hebron mosque and demanded international action to ensure that the Palestinians are no longer exposed to such violence.

The Jordanian government also called for the dismantling of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as one of the best actions to prevent the recurrence of such violence.

His Majesty King Hussein told reporters after Friday prayers at the Faiha Mosque: "I condemn and denounce this crime. Our hearts and souls are with our kin and brothers in the occupied territories and in

Hebron. "My feelings towards this crime are no different from that of all faithful," said the King. "I pray to God to make this incident the last act of violence anywhere in the world."

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, described the Hebron massacre as a crime "that shows extremism, fanaticism and the lack of respect for human rights and the sanctity of the holy places."

Dr. Majali said the massacre "poses a great obstacle to the efforts for peace in the region."

Dr. Majali said the killings undermined "the need for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories

and the dismantling of all settlements as a guarantee for preventing the recurrence of such crimes, which contradict all human and religious values."

Dr. Majali expressed his condolences to the Palestinian people and leadership.

He called on the international community and organisations to put an end to such attacks. The Hebron massacre, he said, "is not just another act of violence adding to the Israeli record of terrorist actions against innocent civilians, but it is a consequence of the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and the Israeli denial of the Palestinians' right to self-determination on Palestinian soil."

Minister of State for Foreign

Affairs Talal Al Hassan also voiced Jordan's strong condemnation of the killings. "This ugly crime has shaken the sentiments of the whole world," he said. "It should not be allowed to pass unnoticed."

The minister said Jordan held Israel responsible for the attack and demanded an immediate investigation into the killings. He also demanded that Israel adopt firm action to curb Jewish settlers and withdraw all their arms.

Mr. Hassan summoned the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and of Greece, the serving president of the European Union, as well as Indonesia, chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement to register Jordan's condemnation of the massacre.

### King donates JD 100,000

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Friday announced that he was donating JD 100,000 to the families of Palestinians killed in Friday's massacre.

Mr. Hassan urged the ambassadors to ask their respective countries to "shoulder their full responsibilities towards such crimes" and support efforts for a just peace in the Middle East and ensure a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The ambassadors expressed regret and shock over the massacre and promised to convey the Jordanian point of view to

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## Massacre globally condemned

Combined agency dispatches

FRIDAY'S massacre at a Hebron mosque was universally condemned by foreign governments, amid widespread fears that it could derail the Middle East peace process, and some criticism of Israel.

"It is the responsibility of the authorities in the occupied territories to provide protection for all inhabitants," a British Foreign office spokesman said.

But he added: "This appalling atrocity must not be allowed to jeopardise the peace process negotiations" between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for Palestinian autonomy.

"We deplore violence from whatever quarter and urge restraint."

In the worst ever attack on Palestinians by settlers, one or more gunmen raked worshippers with gunfire as they knelt praying at the Tomb of the Patriarchs on Friday morning killing at least 60 people and injuring dozens.

Nine more Palestinians were reported killed by Israeli soldiers and scores wounded during protests following the attack, while an Israeli settler was hacked to death by a Palestinian.

Russia condemned the attack as an "act of terror" and urged Israel to take immediate action to prevent such a thing

happening again.

Condemnation by Israel's leadership and the main political parties "did not absolve the Israeli government from all responsibility, nor from the need to act in a way that will check the rise in violence," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by Russian news agencies.

"Measures must be taken immediately so that nothing similar happens again and the guilty parties are punished," the ministry said.

European countries expressed shock at the killings but urged Israel and the Palestinians to keep talking for the

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## Hardliners vow revenge

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Hardline Palestinian groups vowed to avenge Friday's massacre of more than 60 worshippers at a West Bank mosque and said it rang the death knell of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, put all its fighters "on a maximum state of alert" and called on them "to retaliate as hard as possible to avenge the slaughter in Hebron."

Hamas, which has spearheaded attacks on Israelis in the occupied territories since the September autonomy accord, announced "emergency military plans" to hit "Zionist targets, occupation soldiers

and settlers."

One or more settlers shot dead at least 60 Palestinians and wounded dozens more inside a mosque at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, and nine other Arabs were killed in clashes with troops.

Leaders of a Damascus-based 10-member alliance opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal with Israel also demanded in separate statements that the Israeli-occupied territories be placed under United Nations protection.

They also called on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to abandon his peace negotiations with Israel and work for Palestinian unity.

Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), predicted more attacks against Palestinians and held Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin responsible for the violence.

"I think the settlers would continue their measures against our people under the eyes of Rabin and his forces," Mr. Hawatmeh told Reuters Television.

He said the violence was a result of PLO-Israeli deal "which ignored completely the withdrawal of the Israeli settlers from the occupied territories."

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## Politicians, community leaders denounce killing, peace talks and Arafat

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Political and community leaders reacted vehemently Friday to the massacre of over at least 60 Palestinians at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and called on Jordanians to observe three days of mourning and calling for an end to peace negotiations with Israel on all fronts.

"We call on all Jordanians to let black flags fly over their homes for three days and to abstain from working for a symbolic 1/4 of an hour Saturday in commemoration of the martyrs," read the announcement distributed by the professional associations and leftist, pan-Arab and Islamist political parties. The groups announced that a march would be held Sunday at 14:30 from the professional unions building to the Hashemite Square in downtown Amman to mark "the anger in our hearts and our rejection of the peace process as it stands."

Leaders of political parties, popular unions and organisations as well as members of Parliament and Palestinian activities met Friday to declare their outrage at the massacre in a heated atmosphere which brought tears to the eyes of many and would-be fistfights on several occasions.

Less than an hour after news of the attack was broadcast,

representatives and members of Jordanian and Palestinian popular unions and organisations marched from the professional associations complex in Shmeisani to the Red Cross office asking for international protection for Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Almost simultaneously after the noon prayers demonstrations broke out in several Palestinian refugee camps in greater Amman and Baqaa.

In the Baqaa refugee camp, Lower House member Mohammad Owaideh and Islamic Action Front representative Mohammad Abu Faris joined demonstrators in condemning the attack and calling for an end to the peace process.

But the IAF was not the only group to call for an abrogation of the peace process.

Wahed Al Jaberi, president of the Khalil Al Rahman Society, also known as the Hebron Community Society, called on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to "resign immediately." There should be an immediate vote of no confidence for Yasser Arafat and anyone involved in the peace negotiations," Mr. Jaberi told fellow Hebronites gathered at the society in a massive condolence ceremony for the relatives of the victims of the massacre.

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هناك اعتنا بالتصل



## Egypt may ease entry procedures for Gazans with its documents

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Egyptian government is seriously considering a plan to ease the procedures for Gazans carrying Egyptian documents to enter and possibly settle down in Egyptian territory, diplomatic sources said Friday.

If and when implemented, the relaxed procedures will enable tens of thousands of Palestinians of Gazan origin to return to Egypt and exercise their options. Nearly 25,000 of them are stuck in Kuwait with nowhere to go.

"The Egyptian government is studying a proposal to lift all restrictions on Gazans carrying Egyptian papers returning to Egypt," said the diplomatic source. "In all probability an announcement would be made in this regard soon."

However, other sources said, the new procedures will also involve prior permission for Gazans in the diaspora to enter Egypt, but the process will be made easier and completed in a matter of days, compared to the months that it takes now.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials confirmed that the PLO leadership had raised the issue with the Egyptian government and Cairo had promised to study the subject. But they

could confirm reports that Cairo had already adopted a decision to allow all Gazans carrying Egyptian travel documents to return to its territory without any impediment.

The PLO request was made shortly after the peace process started in Madrid in October, said a PLO official. Egypt has already started a census of Gazans holding Egyptian travel documents living in Egypt as well as elsewhere in the Arab World. The census is expected to end mid-April.

The findings of the census will give the Egyptian authorities a fairly accurate picture of Gazans wishing to return to their occupied homeland and those who have already settled elsewhere after acquiring other nationalities, the diplomatic sources noted.

The Sept. 13 agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) provides for discussions on the status of Palestinians displaced in the 1967 war.

PLO officials estimate the number of "displaced" Palestinians, including West Bankers who live in Jordan, at 875,000. But there are not many of that category living in Egypt.

There are several categories of Gazans, and the Egyptian approach to them varies: — Natives of the

Mediterranean strip who still live there are allowed to travel to Egypt with relatively easy clearance procedures.

— Palestinians from elsewhere who fled to Gaza and lived in refugee camps after losing their homes when the state of Israel was created in 1948. Egypt treats them as part of the Gaza natives.

— Gazans, including natives and refugees from elsewhere who fled the strip, in the 1967 war.

The bulk of them — about 50,000 — came to Jordan followed by a few thousands in 1969 who were expelled by Israel. Their total number is estimated at between 150,000 and 200,000, including dependents.

Most of those who came from Gaza to Jordan now living in Jerash Camp.

They all carried Egyptian travel documents but most of them surrendered their papers to Jordanian authorities in exchange for two-year Jordanian passports which facilitate their travel but do not entitle them to Jordanian citizenship or oblige them to fulfill citizenship responsibilities.

But they also have to get prior clearance from Egypt before entering that country.

Some of the Gazans, natives as well as refugees, who came to Jordan since 1967 have been given full Jordanian nationality and issued

regular Jordanian passports. No precise number was immediately available.

Many of the Gazans, both natives and refugees from other parts of Palestine, moved to the Gulf states during the 1970s. They had relatively free access to return to the Gaza Strip through Egypt since they all carried Egyptian-issued travel documents but had to get prior clearance from the Egyptian Ministry of Interior.

According to Egyptian sources, one of the main considerations that determine their entry to Egypt is their financial status.

"In most cases, permission is very easy if the applicant can prove that he or she is in a good financial position and will bring in funds to the country," said one Egyptian source.

Around 25,000 Palestinians of Gazan origin were in Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion of the emirate in August 1990. Many of them applied for Egyptian permission to return to Egypt in the run-up to the war that ended the Iraqi occupation and thereafter, but only a few of them were given the green light. Since then, they are stuck in Kuwait, with nowhere to go (since no other country would issue them visas on their Egyptian travel documents).

## UNRWA catching up with its expected role in peace

Following is an interview that will appear in a newsletter entitled *Palestine Refugees Today* issued every six months by The United Nations Relief And Works Agency (UNRWA) public information office in Vienna. It was made available to the Jordan Times ahead of publication:

The Declaration of Principles signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel on Sept. 13, 1993 has potentially opened a new era for Palestinians. Palestine Refugees Today interviewed UNRWA Commissioner-General Iker Turkmen about UNRWA's response to the self-rule agreement.

**Q: How has UNRWA adapted to the new political environment created by the September agreement between the PLO and Israel?**

**A:** We immediately set up an internal task force to analyse our role in the new circumstances and to consider how we could support the peace process. Just a month after the ceremony in Washington D.C. we launched our peace implementation programme, a major effort to improve services and infrastructure for Palestinian refugees. We have already identified over \$100 million in projects in Gaza Strip and West Bank alone.

The key to our ability to respond rapidly was the agency's long and well-established presence on the ground. We have over 8,000 experienced staff in Gaza and the West Bank, almost all of whom are Palestinians who moved quickly to identify projects. Senior staff members in education, health and social services

have strong links with their counterparts in the community. We also have the infrastructure — buildings, transportation and administrative procedures — already in place.

We set up the peace implementation programme — PIP for short — in close consultation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and also in line with the recommendations of a United Nations report called "Supporting the Transition" produced by a U.N. task force which included UNRWA. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali formed the task force to coordinate United Nations efforts and to work out priorities for economic and social development in Gaza and the West Bank.

**Q: What does UNRWA aim to do under PIP?**

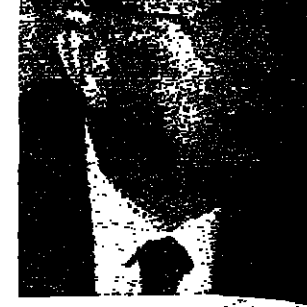
**A:** We have three main aims. First, to improve the basic physical and social services infrastructure, especially

in those sectors where the Palestinians are expected to assume authority in the future. Second, to create urgently needed jobs. And third, to support the peace process by improving the social and economic living conditions of Palestinians.

Let me give you a few examples to demonstrate the range of projects we are undertaking. In education, we have been asked by the PLO to help upgrade both UNRWA and non-UNRWA schools and lend our teacher-training expertise. In health, UNRWA has just started the construction of a 232-bed hospital in the Gaza Strip, the first new hospital built there since 1967. We are also upgrading health centres and taking action to alleviate the appalling environmental health conditions in the Gaza Strip. We are repairing or reconstructing over 10,000 shelters in the West Bank and Gaza as well as providing training and loans to alleviate poverty and support small businesses to create jobs.

**Q: How is PIP being financed?**

**A:** So far, we have received firm pledges totalling about \$38 million from donor governments. We are pleased with these results, but we are concerned that we may find ourselves short of cash to fi-



Iker Turkmen  
nance our regular budget, regular contributions coming at the present level, we face a cash shortfall of over \$20 million in 1994. This would be basic services not only in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but also in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

**Q: Are Jordan, Lebanon and Syria also included in PIP?**

**A:** The attention of the international community is focused mainly on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But we feel that it is equally important that donors demonstrate to the 1.9 million Palestine refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria that they are a part of the peace process and that their needs for better education, health care and housing should also be met. We have already identified over \$73 million in projects to improve facilities and services for refugees in these countries.

## U.S. congressmen campaign against lifting U.N. sanctions against Iraq

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Three years after the Gulf war, "Iraq remains in violation of key United Nations resolutions despite international sanctions; Saddam Hussein maintains his grip on power and there are few signs that the demise of his regime is imminent," said congressmen (Democrat-Indiana) Lee Hamilton, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, at a Wednesday foreign policy hearing.

"The current unsatisfactory state of affairs in Iraq seems capable of continuing indefinitely," the question now, Mr. Hamilton said, is "what U.S. policy should be," and what ought to be done beyond sanctions.

Testifying at the hearing were Rep. Robert Torricelli, (Democrat-New Jersey); Laurie Myroie, an Arab Affairs Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Dr. Amatzia Baram, an Israeli professor of Middle East history at Haifa University and a visiting fellow at Woodrow Wilson Centre, and Graham Fuller, senior analyst with the Rand Corporation.

Mr. Torricelli described findings from his summer 1993 visit to a few of "the hundreds of villages that were literally razed" by Iraq, and the "chilling" stories he had heard from survivors.

"More than 200,000 Kurds were killed in the last decade," their buildings destroyed, their crops poisoned by the Iraqi regime. The Iraqi army drove Kurds to the desert, Mr. Torricelli charged, "where they were machine-gunned to death by the thousands... Stories of genocide are only now beginning to be documented and

heard."

The arrival of international monitors to Iraq after the war, forced it "to change its methods, but not its aims," the congressman said. Iraq's "new campaign of terror is economic," he added, citing interruptions in the flow of humanitarian supplies and electrical power to the Kurds "sometimes for weeks on end." He said it is estimated that "from one to three babies a day were dying in hospitals because incubators lost power."

Such economic tactics have made the rebuilding of northern Iraq impossible.

Moreover, "in a great irony of history, the (United Nations) embargo was placed on all of Iraq, and the Kurdish people, whom our own forces are there to protect, are now covered by the embargo," Torricelli said.

"This is a policy that makes no sense.... We are doing Saddam's work for him until this embargo is lifted," the congressman declared. "Kurds... are not asking for aid. They're asking for a chance to rebuild their economy."

Responding to questions from Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Torricelli said that democratically elected Kurdish leaders "are not seeking an independent state." The U.S. and United Nations policy of recognising the territorial integrity of Iraq, therefore, "is not contradicted by dealing with these Kurdish leaders," he stressed.

Mr. Myroie, who spent the summer of 1993 in Iraq, strongly advocated maintaining the embargo. She said that despite the sanctions, Iraq had been able to rebuild through a continuing flow of supplies over the Jordan border. And

Jordan's purchase of Iraqi oil — "some \$500 million per year — is Baghdad's single most important source of foreign exchange."

"The Iraqi-Jordanian oil trade also facilitates smuggling of contraband material in oil tankers used for that purpose," according to Iraqi defectors' reports, she added, noting that other Gulf countries, whom the United States defended in the war, such as Oman or the United Arab Emirates, "can as easily supply Jordan with essential oil."

Turning to Iraqi human rights "abuses" against the marsh Arabs and the draining of their marshlands in southern Iraq, Ms. Myroie noted that United Nations planes fly above these areas daily. She further recommended that the military feasibility of bombing the eastern dikes to divert marsh waters be explored.

Warning the subcommittee that "Baghdad has repeatedly promised revenge," Ms. Myroie cited Baghdad's involvement in the plan to assassinate former President Bush, and "serious, unanswered questions" surrounding Iraq's possible role in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre.

Displaying "Wanted" posters issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Department of State, Ms. Myroie said that two fugitive suspects indicted in New York "carried Iraqi passports" and one of them is now in Baghdad.

Dr. Amatzia Baram, agreeing with Ms. Torricelli, stressed the need to help Kurds and "prevent a new Kurdish refugee disaster." On a practical level, he said, a number of inexpensive pro-

jects are feasible, including:

— A small oil refinery to enable the Kurds to use available crude resources and convert them into oil products;

— Operating cement factories to continue reconstruction efforts;

— Food processing factories to enable villages to stabilise food supplies and become natural net exporters of fruits and vegetables.

Graham Fuller urged the lifting of the United Nations embargo on northern Iraq, underscoring that Iraqi Kurdistan should not be treated as a liberated region, but "as a liberated region of Iraq. This enclave needs to be strengthened and relieved of the sanctions applied against it." The area, he said, is "of great importance in continuing to attract broadcasting, and representational offices of all opposition Iraqi groups, of all stripes."

Mr. Fuller criticized U.S. policy for not having "articulated its desire to see Saddam fall," and suggested that this has fueled speculation in the region "that the United States prefers to keep Saddam in power as a means of justifying its own military presence in the Gulf."

To counter this perception, Mr. Fuller urged that war crimes trials be pursued against the Iraqi leadership "to keep the heat on Saddam."

He cautioned, however, that the problem of Iraq went beyond President Saddam, comprising "the entire Ba'ath Party that helped create him and support him. There will be no significant change in Iraq until, like the Communist Party in the Soviet Union, the Ba'ath Party is gone."

## Drug abuse on the rise in UAE

ABU DHABI (AP) — In a rare admission on drug abuse, a senior police official has warned that more and more people are taking drugs in this conservative Muslim country.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ali Al Fardan, director of the drug combat department in the Sharjah emirate, said 933 people were arrested throughout the country for drug abuse last year.

Although he did not give comparative figures for previous years, he said it was a marked rise in a country of 1.7 million which had mainly been a transit point for drugs traffickers.

"The United Arab Emirates first was a transit point between drug producers in India, Pakistan, Iran and Bangladesh and consumers in the West," he said.

"But now it has become a consuming point, and we have to admit that."

Sharjah is one of the seven emirates federated in the UAE, which has a coastline along a considerable part of the Gulf and outlets on the Arabian Sea.

The UAE, like neighbouring states, became a target for drug dealers after waxing wealthy in the oil boom of the 1970s.

Heroin and hashish are the most prevalent drugs in the Gulf region.

As traditional Islamic countries, they have played down the incidence of drug abuse within their countries while stiffening punishment for drug-related offenses.

In Saudi Arabia, dealing carries the penalty of decapitation. Dealers, mostly Asians and Africans, make up the majority of those beheaded.

Col. Fardan called for tougher penalties against drug dealers and legislation to prevent drug money laundering

## Middle East to get giant share of U.S. budget request — Christopher

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher said while testifying Tuesday before the House Foreign Affairs Committee that the best antidote for West Bank violence "is to move forward on the peace process."

In defending the administration's fiscal 1995 international affairs budget request, Mr. Christopher pointed out that the funds sought comprise only about one per cent of the total federal budget and that the request should be seen in terms of serving U.S. interests overseas.

"That's certainly true of money that is given to promote democracy abroad," he said, "because it's my conviction and I think it's a provable fact that democracies are better allies, they're better trading partners, they produce the most stability around the world which keeps us from having to spend more money elsewhere."

Mr. Christopher noted that the largest single share of the administration's budget request, \$5.400 million, support the goal of promoting peace, and more than 80 per cent of that is for maintaining and advancing peace in the Middle East.

He said there have been "very serious negotiations over the last two weeks" on the Israeli-Syrian track of the bilateral peace talks. "But I would emphasise it will take time to work through the complex relationships of the three core issues on this track — peace, withdrawal and security," he cautioned.

U.S. programmes, he made plain, will have a multifold purpose: supporting "our continuing commitment to Israel's security" and at the same time, reflecting Egypt's "continuing vital role in the region. We're also working to ensure that U.S. and international econo-

mic assistance to Gaza and West Bank will lead to projects that actually improve the lives of the Palestinians there on the ground."

Mr. Christopher also pointed out that the proposed fiscal 1995 aid level is the same as last year, with Egypt and Israel to receive about \$5,000 million each year in U.S. assistance.

While many want to "thwart progress" in the area, he said, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is not in that category.

"I think he is trying to achieve the peace that is planned for in the Declaration of Principles, but we have to keep trying to resist those who are the enemies of the peace process, both within that area and outside that area, such as Iran," he said.

Likewise, Mr. Christopher said, similar forces are at work in Russia, forces "inconsistent with reform and inconsistent with (Russia's) new status in the world," adding that the United States knew that well before this week's revelation that a former senior Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official has been arrested and charged with spying for the Russian Federation.

"There are those in the Russian security service who are conducting clandestine operations as though the cold war had never ended," he said. "They've changed the name of the Russian intelligence service, but they have not changed its activities."

Mr. Christopher assured the committee the Clinton administration takes this development very seriously, but "we're not naive about it. We don't have any illusions about the Russians. There are forces there that reflect the old days and the important thing for us to do is to keep those forces from gaining sway there."

The secretary also emphasised that it's "important to keep reform moving forward there all the way across the board — political reform, economic reform and foreign policy reform."

## Yemeni tension eases

(Continued from page 10)

King Hussein led Arab mediation efforts to end the six-month-long political feud between Mr. Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh that led to the military clashes.

The clashes erupted Abyan less than 24 hours after King Hussein supervised a ceremony where Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh signed the reconciliation charter. The two sides accused each other of starting the fighting in an effort to wreck the accord.

The union has been plagued by political animosities that have intensified in recent months. Among other complaints, Mr. Beidh has complained about the failure to integrate the military forces of north and south.

Mr. Saleh received the Jordanian team in the early hours of the day before dawn cannon signalled the start of day-long Ramadan fasting. In Aden, stronghold of Mr. Beidh and his Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), officials said Thursday that a ceasefire would hold since their Al Wabshi brigade had succeeded in pushing back the northern Amalqa, brigade back to barracks on the outskirts of Zangibar, capital city Abyan.

The north has been insisting that the situation will cool off when Al Wabshi returns to its base in Hadramout province, to the far east, where there was no indication that that had taken place.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
17:30 Les Aventuriers De L'Espace  
18:40 L'Ecole Des Fais  
19:40 Benamar  
19:40 News in French  
19:45 Ushuaia  
19:50 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
21:00 Family Matters  
22:00 News in English  
22:15 Local Programme  
22:50 Feature Film: "A Thousand Hours"

### PRAYER TIMES

06:47 Fair  
06:56 Sunrise  
11:49 Dhuhr  
15:01 Asr  
15:21 Maghrib  
18:48 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatfeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390  
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637400  
De la Saie Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assiuta International Church Tel. 652526  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
A cold air front will affect the Kingdom, that is why clouds will build up at different altitudes with rain falling in all parts of the Kingdom. Temperatures dropping and winds becoming westerly moderate to active. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp. Amman ..... 4/12

Aqaba ..... 10/21  
Deserts ..... 3/14  
Jordan Valley ..... 9/20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 22, Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Mazabra ..... 820425  
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim ..... 831039  
Dr. Mohammad Al Jaz ..... 752971  
Dr. Sitwari Abu Zayed ..... 737962  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fordows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asana pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nisroukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salan pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 647632

IBBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qanu ..... (-)  
Al Quds Pharmacy ..... (-)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd ..... 989000

Khalaf pharmacy ..... 985417

Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 643402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Police Complaints ..... 605800  
Water and Sewerage ..... 661176  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 016230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 615615  
Electric Power  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642816  
Akil Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642816  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642816  
Malha, J. Amman ..... 630140  
Palestine Shmeisani ..... 664171/4  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Musharraf Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/57  
Al-Abi, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Mubajrec ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marha ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)906560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)909990

### HOSPITALS

IBBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

18:45 ..... Dubai (EM)  
22:10 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
22:15 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
23:35 ..... Cairo (MS)

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 ..... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)  
05:25 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
05:20 ..... Amman (RJ)  
05:30 ..... Dhahran (RJ)  
05:30 ..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:20 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
11:35 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
15:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
16:25 ..... London, Berlin (RJ)  
17:25 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 ..... Vienna (OA)  
10:30 ..... Amman (RJ)  
17:35 ..... Rome (AZ)

06:00 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Amman (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:35 ..... Paris, Brussel (RJ)  
11:45 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:45 ..... London (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Amman (RJ)  
14:05 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
16:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
16:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
16:45 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Amman (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:35 ..... Paris, Brussel (RJ)  
11:45 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:45 ..... London (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Amman (RJ)  
14:05 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
16:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
16:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
16:45 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 ..... Vienna (OA)  
10:30 ..... Amman (RJ)  
17:35 ..... Rome (AZ)

18:45 ..... Dubai (EM)  
22:10 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
22:15 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
23:35 ..... Cairo (MS)

**MARKET PRICES**  
Upper/lower price in Jds per kg

Apple





Demonstrators Friday outside the International Federation of the Red Cross, Red Crescent Societies offices in Amman protest the Friday massacre of Palestinians at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

## British stabbing victim recovering

By a Jordan Times Staff Report

AMMAN — A British man was stabbed in the shoulder early Friday by a native of Hebron who was enraged by the massacre of more than 60 Palestinians in his West Bank hometown, officials said.

The attack took place when Howard Long, 77, and his wife Barbara, 74, of Purley in Surrey County, were getting into a taxi in the bustling Hashemiyeh Square of downtown Amman.

According to Barbara Long, the assailant, who was later identified as Khalil Hosni Al Qirsh, 25, rushed towards the couple brandishing a knife.

"I screamed and he knocked me aside and stabbed my husband in the shoulder," she said. "As I struggled to get up, he pushed me again and stabbed by husband again."

Bystanders rushed to rescue the couple and policemen in

the area immediately arrested the assailant.

Mr. Long was rushed to Al Bashir Hospital and later transferred to the King Hussein Medical Centre, where he was recovering.

A medical source said Mr. Long's injuries were not serious, but that the man was kept under close observation because he had a heart condition.

"Barring complications, Mr. Long should be discharged from hospital in the next 48 hours," said the source.

Mrs. Long said the couple, who were in Jordan for the past two days, planned to leave the Kingdom as soon as Mr. Long was in a condition to travel.

"It was a very painful experience," she said.

Interior Minister Salameh Hammud was quoted as confirming the incident by the Associated Press.

"Apparently the assailant was enraged by the news of the

killing in the occupied territories and attacked the British tourist in retaliation," Mr. Hammud was quoted as saying by the AP.

No detail was available on the background of the assailant.

Several Western embassies said they were advising their nationals to exercise caution while moving out in the next few days.

"It is only a precautionary measure," said a spokesman for a European embassy. "People in Jordan do not have any record of violence against foreigners, and we are treating (Friday's incident) as isolated. But one has to be careful."

The incident was reminiscent of an attack on May 21, 1990, when a man opened fire and stabbed of eight French tourists and two Jordanians in downtown Amman following the killing of eight Palestinian workers by an Israeli gunman in Tel Aviv the previous day.

## Baqaa residents demonstrate against Hebron massacre

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAQAA CAMP — More than 3,000 people enraged by the news of the slaughter of at least 89 Palestinians at a mosque in Hebron early Friday took to the streets of this sprawling camp to demand revenge for the killings.

They also denounced the 27-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process and demanded that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) renounce its Sept. 13 autonomy agreement with Israel and leave the peace talks altogether.

Calls for retribution for the attack in the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, where an Israeli settler opened machine-gun fire on worshippers early Friday, were a dominant theme for a demonstration in this camp of nearly 100,000 residents.

"Where are you Saddam, where are your missiles," chanted the crowd, repeating after half a dozen masked youths perched atop a pickup truck mounted with loud speakers. They were referring to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who fired more than 40 long-range missiles at Israel during the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait.

For many residents of this squalid camp, President Saddam, despite Iraq's defeat in the war, remains a hero who was entrapped by the U.S. and other Israeli allies into a

war aimed at eliminating Iraq's military power which they saw as a potential threat to the Jewish state.

"Would the Israelis dare to slaughter Palestinians if Iraq was strong as it was before the war?" asked Hussein, who wore a headress to conceal his face.

The situation in Baqaa appeared under control, but residents said emotions ran high and that they could not rule out individual acts of violence similar to an attack in downtown Amman where a British tourist was stabbed by a native of Hebron.

"People are enraged and seething with anger and frustration over their inability to do anything to avenge the killings," said an elderly grocer in Baqaa. "Many people here are from Hebron and no doubt some of their relatives were among the dead and injured at Ibrahim Mosque."

Black flags hung over electric poles and men and women gathered at street corners listening to radios and exchanging information to find out whether any of their relatives were among the victims of the attack.

Rejection of the peace talks with Israel was another dominant call of the protesters as they wound through the narrow streets of this camp, one of 11 camps housing nearly 300,000 Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

"No to peace and yes to the gun," they chanted, de-

manding an end to Palestinian participation in the peace negotiations. "No to self-rule, yes to holy war."

Despite the relative strength of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah among Baqaa residents, many of those taking part in the protest said they felt the PLO-led peace talks with Israel were getting nowhere.

"As the talks get from one round to another, it is becoming increasingly clear that Israel has no intention of returning the land to us," said Walid Nashat, who was seven when his family fled their home village in the West Bank in 1967.

"I supported the autonomy accord from the very beginning, hoping that it would lead to a just solution to our problems," said Amer, an electrician who declined to give his second name.

"But it seems that our problems are only getting worse, if Israelis can massacre Palestinians with impunity," he said.

Mohammad Owida, an Islamic Action Front (IAF) member of Parliament from Baqaa, told the rally: "Today's killing has proved that there cannot be any coexistence with Israel."

"I call on the Palestinian leadership to withdraw from the peace talks," he said as the crowd shouted: "Allahu Akbar" and "Jihad (holy war) is the only road to Palestine."



Baqaa residents Friday demonstrate against the killing of more than 60 Palestinians in Hebron (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

## Trade unionists welcome recent foreign labour restrictions

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GJTU) has been encouraged by the recent decision of Minister of Labour Khalid Ghazawi to stop granting work permits to foreign freight truck drivers, but the federation would like to see the ministry cut back on the presence of foreign labour in other areas as well, said Mazin Ma'aytah, the representative to the secretary general of the GJTU.

"We thank the minister for this step," Mr. Ma'aytah said, urging that additional steps be taken "to limit the foreign workforce and expand the possibilities for employment for Jordanians."

Mr. Ma'aytah said that the foreign drivers in question are employed almost exclusively to drive large freight and refrigerator trucks which trans-

port goods between Aqaba and Amman and from Jordan to neighbouring countries. He estimated that their current number in Jordan was around 1,400, and that they comprise around 25 per cent of the freight truck drivers currently working in this sector in the Kingdom.

The drivers come chiefly from the Philippines, Korea, Pakistan, India, Syria, Egypt and other countries, he said.

"The truth is that there is a high rate of unemployment among Jordanian drivers. And one of the major reasons is the employment of foreign drivers," Mr. Ma'aytah said.

The federation had been concerned with this issue for some time and had begun to request that the ministry put an end to companies' hiring foreign drivers some three or four years ago, according to Mr. Ma'aytah.

"We requested many times from the responsible author-

ities that they put a limit to this occurrence... and carry out the principle of the labour law, which means giving the priority in hiring to Jordanian citizens."

"But, unfortunately, it appears that the owners of the companies involved had considerable influence in this matter, and they quashed any decision which could have been taken."

Mr. Ma'aytah said that the hiring of foreign truck drivers had begun some time before the Gulf war, "the reason for that being that there was no unemployment among Jordanian drivers and additional drivers were badly needed."

But, he said, the situation changed from one where the foreign drivers were playing a needed role in filling a manpower gap to one where they became the preferred choice over Jordanian drivers themselves, which aggravated the already considerable work

shortage for Jordanian freight truck drivers, that emerged after the events of the Gulf War, the ensuing U.N. blockade of Aqaba and the souring of diplomatic relations and consequently commercial relations with neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

"Jordanian employers prefer the foreign driver, first because the salary he takes is very low. In addition, he can work longer hours than the Jordanian driver because he has no home or family in Jordan. So he is prepared to work any time, day and night, and has no responsibilities other than driving."

"Secondly, there is the problem of lack of freedom of passage through Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries for Jordanian truck drivers," Mr. Ma'aytah continued.

"This all led to the presence of a great number of foreign drivers in the cargo transport

sector, at the expense of Jordanian drivers and their work."

Mr. Ma'aytah emphasised, however, that "the minister of labour has taken a decisive step and we hope that he will continue in this path."

He said that the federation hoped in the future to see similar steps taken in other areas of employment in Jordan, especially in the hotel and restaurant services sector.

"Jordanian workers have begun to have a presence in such work places and although this trend is advancing slowly, it should eventually yield positive results," said Mr. Ma'aytah.

"I believe that after a certain period, Jordanian workers will be able to competently fill any and all areas of employment in Jordan. But the gameball remains in the hands of the responsible authorities for the elimination or limiting of the employment of foreigners inside Jordan."

## Children stick to issues at parliament formation meeting

By Sa'eda Kilani

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Except for a few cars on the two sides of the road, the Royal Cultural Centre's environs seemed to be vacant on this rainy Thursday morning. No signs, no banners were raised to hail this first event in the history of children in Jordan: the formation of their own parliament.

The sight of one of the centre's staff cleaning the doorsteps would have proven to the newcomers that this extraordinary meeting might have been adjourned, probably due to weather conditions, were it not for the sight of two young girls running jubilantly into the centre's street level entrance.

Inside, the main auditorium was surprisingly packed with children between the ages of 12 and 17, sitting respectfully and listening attentively to the speeches of six of their colleagues on one panel and to six politicians on another.

The speaker on both panels were reaffirming their willingness to defend children's rights, especially their right to know and to have access to information. As one of the speakers, Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas was showered with questions on the children's rights to safe food and a dignified life. One of the students asked Dr. Malhas to issue directives under which all canned commodities, that are free of contaminated elements, bear the ministry's official stamp.

The minister regretted that the ministry would not be able to assume such a considerable task, but he insisted on the

"informational" dimension of the problem and advised the enthusiastic and lively youngsters to be self-armed with knowledge.

"Stamping all canned food items is practically impossible," the minister replied. "But the ministry prepared a list of all contaminating materials and dangerous elements to the public's health that can be found in many food items and which children as well as adults consume."

"I admit that I was and still am ignorant," the minister continued. "But I resorted to experts in the field to increase my awareness of all the details needed to upgrade the quality of the food and medicine we are consuming."

Senator and human rights activist Laila Sharaf focused on the importance of this aspect and the right to know as basic pillars of protection against diseases and backwardness. Mrs. Sharaf also called on non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to assume a leading role in this domain.

"In the U.S. when the prices of coffee soared high, women's unions called for boycotting it," Mrs. Sharaf said. "In two weeks, coffee's prices went down again."

Contrary to the first panel of politicians, who were trying to speak to children in their own language, children on the second panel delivered prepared, long and highly sophisticated speeches in standard Arabic. One of the panel's students, Rana Abu Na'meh from the Jubilee School, asked the minister to project his analysis on the economic implications of the strict regula-

tions imposed on imported food commodities.

Dr. Malhas pointed out that these measures were of a great benefit to the country's economy. He referred to the cholera epidemic that cost the country more than JD 50 millions ten years ago.

President of the Jordanian Women's Union and human rights activist Asma Khader seconded Dr. Malhas's call for stricter measures and insisted on the individual's right to know and to have access to information. She said that most of the companies abroad produce food commodities that are dangerous to the health, but that they "depend on our ignorance to market them" she said.

Most of the children's questions at the end of the meeting were targeted at their right to safe and healthy food. One student from a school in Zarqa, who did not have the chance to ask his question, was reading himself to read a prepared statement in which a call for solidarity with the children of Palestine, Somalia and Iraq was very carefully written.

The 12-year-old child kept repeating the statement to himself. He declined to tell the Jordan Times what he really wished to say to the audience and panelists. After repeating the two-line statement several times, the child, teeth clenched, said: "I would want to tell them that our teacher keeps beating us up... that there is no heating in our class."

The meeting was coming to an end, and the child's parents came to take him home.

## Train collision kills one, seriously injures another

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 28-year-old man was killed and a 33-year-old was seriously injured, Wednesday at Baten Al Ghoul railway station near Al Mudawara route has experienced such a tragic accident.

"We have had accidents in the past, but this is the first time we had casualties," the official said.

He said the waste products train was travelling in the same direction as the freight train which had stopped at the station. According to the official the train carrying wastes lost control and struck the stationary train.

"Luckily they were commercial trains and not passenger trains," the official commented.

"Each train had two cars attached to it, which lessened the amount of losses, since both trains were totally ruined," he added.

The official told the Jordan Times that technicians are investigating the accident.

Jordan Times that this was the first time in a long period that one of the 20 railway stations on the line between Ma'an and Al Mudawara route has experienced such a tragic accident.

"We have had accidents in the past, but this is the first time we had casualties," the official said.

He said the waste products train was travelling in the same direction as the freight train which had stopped at the station. According to the official the train carrying wastes lost control and struck the stationary train.

"Luckily they were commercial trains and not passenger trains," the official commented.

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The official told the Jordan Times that technicians are investigating the accident.

## Yasmin Saudi, 25

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yasmin Ghazi Saudi, a 25-year-old Jordanian post graduate student at the Imperial College in London who passed away Wednesday, will be buried at the Jilad village near the city of Salt Saturday afternoon. Ms. Saudi died of lung cancer.

A group of the Imperial College Hang-gliding Club

will hold a special event in remembrance of their colleague. Proceeds of the event will benefit cancer research centres.

Ms. Saudi, who spent a brief internship at the Jordan Times two years ago, was a member of the club which presented an aerial show over Wadi Rum last May.

Save water ... every drop counts

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Riham Ghassib at The Gallery Inter-Continental Hotel.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Jalal Arikat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays).
- ★ Art exhibition by several artists at the Alia Art Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.).
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (8:30 p.m.-midnight).
- ★ Photo exhibition by artist Latifa Yusef at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Lecture entitled "The Crisis of Arab Resistance of Israel" by Lebanese Ulema Mohammad Hassan Al Amin at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Musical performance by Al Hannounah band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.
- ★ Drama entitled "The Question" at the Royal Cultural Centre (11:00 a.m. and 8:00 P.M.).

## Quds Open University president denies shut down reports

Staff to be reduced in restructuring plan

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Quds Open University (QOU) is not closing down as was reported in the local press Thursday, according to Ahmad Abu Sheikh, the university president.

"QOU is undergoing a restructuring process largely warranted by financial constraints which would by no means affect educational courses to its 3,500 distance learners," Dr. Abu Sheikh told the Jordan Times Friday.

The reports in the local press said that in a February 16 letter to the Palestinian Higher Education Department that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat had ordered the Amman-based QOU to shut down as of March 24, 1994, and terminate the services of its staff in Amman because the university's headquarters will be transferred to the occupied Arab territories.

"It is true that Amman will cease to house the QOU headquarters as we are moving them to Jerusalem, but our educational services will not be halted," said Dr. Abu Sheikh.

"In the transitional period we are reducing the present staff of 78 in Amman and have set up a special four-member committee to deal with this issue and to select an essential number of employees including instructors and distance learning programme planners to remain

with us," said the QOU president.

"The group selected will either move to Jerusalem or operate from the Amman office, and the rest will have their employment terminated, but not before receiving full pay and end-of-service remuneration," added Dr. Abu Sheikh.

For the past eight months employees of the QOU, which was established by the PLO in 1985 to provide higher education to Palestinian students in Palestine and the diaspora, have not received their salaries because of financial difficulties facing the PLO.

Last December, the QOU staff staged a sit-in at the university here to demand their salaries and the continuation of educational services.

The QOU staff committee later issued a statement, saying that the university was facing the consequences of a financial suspension of Arab and international aid since the Gulf War of 1991. The crisis, said the statement, deprived the workers of their salaries, denied the free-lance teachers their pay, caused programmes to cease, prevented QOU from opening branches in other Arab states, halted the broadcast of televised educational programmes, and led to the resignation of some QOU teachers.

It said that a memorandum listing the grievances had been sent to Mr. Arafat urging him to give priority to

finding sufficient funds for QOU and appealed to wealthy Palestinians and the European Union (EU) to extend aid to the university.

"We are not closing down, and our centres in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Gaza will continue to operate regularly while the Amman office will prepare programmes and courses, contact free-lance authors of textbooks in Jordan and abroad to continue providing educational material to the other QOU low-cost high-quality educational services," stressed Mr. Abu Sheikh.

"We do not know as yet how many staff members will be retained nor do we know the date of the move to the West Bank," said Mr. Abu Sheikh.

In reply to a question about earlier plans to expand QOU educational services to other countries, Dr. Abu Sheikh said, "We have secured the consent of the authorities in Sudan and Yemen to open offices there and were in contact with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iraq for the same purpose, but the financial conditions are making it difficult for us to pursue the matter further at the moment."

The United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) have both helped the establishment of the QOU, the only distance education university in the Arab World.



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## Massacre seeds in Israel

THE MASSACRE that was heinously perpetrated against Palestinians praying peacefully in Hebron's Haram Al Ibrahim yesterday is on the scale of the Feb. 6 Sarajevo bombing that led NATO and the U.N. to move finally to curb the criminal activities of the Bosnian Serbs. As such, mere condemnation of the ugly crime will not do. The international community has to show resolve and vision in this part of the world too. But first it has to agree on the folly of keeping Jewish settlers in the midst of the Arab communities in the occupied territories. By placing Jewish zealots literally on the back of the Palestinians, the Israeli governments, past and present, have become accomplices in the latest manifestation of hatred against Arabs.

There is every possibility that the massacre will draw violent reactions by the Palestinians, which would add to the cycle of violence, undermining in the process the entire peace effort. While a halt to Arab-Israeli negotiations should not be brought about by any violent act, regardless of how outrageous and wherever it comes from, the Israeli government nevertheless is duty-bound to take a number of immediate measures to help heal the deep wounds that yesterday's ugly massacre has inflicted on Arab and Muslim hearts and other human beings everywhere. The Israeli authorities should not content themselves with a thorough investigation of how the alleged killer got into the mosque and was able "single-handedly" to murder so many people at once. Israel also has to release details of the truth of what happened and to reveal the full extent of any plot that may have well been hatched by more than the "lone" man in "mental crisis" who fired the shots.

But beyond that, the labour-led government of Yitzhak Rabin has to outlaw extremist groups among the settlers and has to begin today the process of disarming them in a prelude to taking all neo-colonialists inside the "green line." Those settlers who want to leave the occupied territories have to be encouraged to do so. Prime Minister Rabin cannot procrastinate on this for tactical or any other reasons; and certainly those fanatic Jews who live with their arms and destructive ideology in Arab cities and towns, like Hebron, have to be evicted right away.

There will be many questions on how the "lone" settler got into the mosque fully armed, started and continued shooting for several long minutes, without the Israeli army coming to the rescue of the helpless victims. There will be other questions on how the Israeli authorities provided or failed to provide timely medical assistance to the wounded, why they rejected all pleas for lifting the curfew against Hebron and troops went on to kill 10 more Palestinians on the streets of the occupied territories shortly after the massacre.

The settlers cannot be allowed to go on the rampage in Arab towns and villages, erect barricades and block roads, humiliate young and elderly Arabs under the eyes and nose of the Israeli army. If this situation continues to prevail, the cycle of violence will continue and can ultimately derail the whole peace process, unless of course the Rabin government acts firmly and fast to save the historic reconciliation that was started in Washington on Sept. 13.

The seeds of yesterday's massacre were planted long ago when the Israelis brought in the settlers, the majority of whom are fanatics and religious zealots, armed them and in many cases unleashed them against the people of the West Bank and Gaza. The laxity and the carrot-only policy which the Israeli security forces have been pursuing with the settlers was bound to result in the kind of lawlessness and extremist acts that we witnessed yesterday.

Everything now depends on the way the Israeli government handles the aftermath of the gross and terrorist act at Haram Al Ibrahim. The international community can help heal the wounds, but only if it brings pressure to bear on the Israelis to do what is right.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR lauded the government's decision to present parliament with the actual agricultural situation in Jordan, thus paving the way for the first step towards a national agricultural strategy that would boost production and improve the quality of the crops.

By Presenting the issue to Parliament, the government is seeking the participation of the private and public sectors and the representatives of the people in an open debate over agricultural policies for the sake of achieving an agreement on a future strategy that would ensure successful farming and boost the national economy, said the paper. It is not acceptable nor reasonable to see our country depending on traditional farming methods at a time when farming is witnessing a revolution in methods and in irrigation and agrarian reforms around the world, said the paper. While we support the government's step in this respect, we also realise that the road is not paved with roses and that numerous obstacles impede agricultural development in Jordan, said the paper.

To raise the standards of farming in Jordan to an internationally acceptable level, the country is in need of huge funds and skill and technology which can be made available through close cooperation between Parliament, the government and the private sector, added the paper. It said improving the agricultural sector is a long overdue process and it is an inescapable treatment of a chronic problem facing the nation.

A CCLU member in Al Dustour urged the wealthy people of Jordan to donate generously towards improving the lot of the poor in the country.

### Jordanian Perspective

## Israel determined to maintain economic occupation of Palestinians

THE ISRAELI resistance to the Palestinian quest for economic independence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip comes as no surprise. It was always known that Israel wanted to keep the occupied territories as a captive market for itself and impose all kinds of blockades against others trying to do business with the Palestinians, peace or no peace.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip represent an annual \$1.5 billion market for Israeli products and it is no wonder the occupying power seeks to ensure that no one else penetrates the market.

But what is alarming is the vehemence with which Israel went out against the Palestinian moves to delink the occupied territories from the imposed Israeli trade and the justifications it produced to support its stand.

No doubt the volte-face that Israel has adopted after having said earlier that it would not interfere with Palestinian economic moves and would let the Palestinians to take the initiative was prompted by the recent agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that they would not allow the Jewish state to impose hurdles in the way of Jordanian-Palestinian trade.

There is an increasing number of Israeli businessmen trying to reap benefits of the aid that the international community has pledged in order to support Palestinian economy. Their approach, obviously supported by their government, is that joint Israeli-Palestinian projects will have a better chance of Israeli approval.

What is left unsaid is that Palestinian-initiated and Palestinian-dominated projects may simply not materialise since Israel is in a position to lay all kinds of hurdles in realising such projects.

The Israeli hint that the occupation authorities would block the entry of Palestinian workers to the Jewish state if the PLO insisted on its economic programmes is nothing but sheer blackmail. Israel bears the moral responsibility to allow Palestinians to work in its territory in the interim if only because its occupation of the Palestinian land and a well-orchestrated move to stomp Palestinian economic growth in the past 27 years is directly behind the absence of alternative job opportunities for the Palestinians.

If anything, Israel needs Palestinian workers as much as the Palestinians need jobs whether in Israel or anywhere else.

Very few Israelis, if at all, are willing to offer their services at the wages that Israeli employers pay their Palestinian workers. The increase in the number of guest workers from the Far East in the Israeli construction sector and agriculture after the occupation power reduced the number of Palestinians allowed to work in its territory since mid-1993 evidences the dislike Israelis have when it comes to menial jobs.

But then, that is an internal Israeli problem with its links to the Palestinian labour force.

In the meantime, the international community, which has been cheering the Sept. 13 agreement signed between Israel and the PLO and moving closer to the Jewish state, should bear in mind that the net picture that emerges from all the tracks of the Israel-PLO negotiations is that of an occupying power trying only to relax its stranglehold on the occupied while seeking to reap the benefits of aggression and occupation.

If anything, the 127 countries which signed the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) only three months ago should realise that while Israel, also a signatory to GATT for many years, is enjoying protective mechanisms for its industries against international competition and is also subjecting the Palestinians to the same treatment. The only difference is that it uses international documents to deal with the outside world, and the Palestinians are conveniently "convinced" by guns that they have no option but to buy Israeli products.

What is happening to the spirit of barrier-free international trade that U.S. Secretary of State Ron Brown emphasised during his tour of the region in December? Or is such trade limited to protecting the interests of some countries and people? Or what justifications could Washington or any other world capital produce to defend the Israeli stand? After all it was the international community, rather than a majority of the Middle Easterners, that has supported the Israel-PLO accord and welcomed it as signalling a new era of cooperation in the region?

Washington and other Israeli allies in Europe had been very active in trying to convince the Arabs into dropping the economic boycott of Israel. One fails to see the logic behind offering rewards to an occupier who continues its occupation

while trying not only to paint it different to the outside world but also to ensure that the victims of its occupation continue to subsidise the occupation costs.

As far as Jordan is concerned, what has surfaced in the economic talks in Paris between Israel and the PLO is simple and clear: Israel wants free trade between the Palestinian territories and itself, but will not allow such an arrangement between Jordan and the Palestinians. Its argument that third country products could enter the occupied territories and then to Israel because barrier-free trade is a lame excuse since it is easy to adopt measures to prevent such seepage. After all, Israel is even building a fence to keep out "undesirable Palestinians" from its territory, and it should not be difficult for its keep out "undesirable products," whether from Jordan or anywhere else.

Without going into details, it is clear that if there is an Israeli acceptance of the fact that it has to let go of the economic benefits it reaped from 27 years of occupation then there is no dearth of ways and means to block the "flooding" of the Israeli market with third country products. That should satisfy the Israeli "worry" that "customs union" with the occupied territories would lead to instability in the Israeli market.

Indeed, that is if the Israeli "worry" is genuine. The facts on the ground indicate otherwise. It is known that the cost of living in Israel is high because of the high cost of production and high inflation. By extension, the Palestinians living in the occupied territories are also subject to the high cost of living because of the economic linkage between them and Israel. Why should the Palestinians be forced to strain themselves and pay for the economic follies of Israel and subsidise the Israeli economy by consuming Israeli products at gunpoint?

The Israeli worry is simple. The Israelis know that Jordanian products as well as third country products are cheaper than Israeli products and therefore the Jewish state would be the loser in a free-market approach to the occupied territories. But then, we all thought that what we were talking about in the context of the peace process launched in Madrid was an open-minded approach to peace in an atmosphere free of coercion and pressure not the kind of shot-gun wedding that Israel is trying to perform with the Palestinians.

By Michael Jansen  
Special to the Jordan Times

## 'Who is to guard the guardians themselves?'

THE MASSACRE of more than 89 Palestinians outside the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron flowed directly from the messianic current which always was a component of Zionism. This messianic current has been dominant among the militant settlers who imposed themselves on the centre of the town in 1968 and established the Kiyat Arba settlement. These messianics have set the tone of relations between Muslims and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis in Hebron.

The mosque housing the tombs of the prophets has in particular been a focus of settler pressure on the Palestinians. Once Jews gained the "right" to pray there (a "right" which they should have as "sons" of Abraham) they expounded their presence by establishing synagogues and hours of prayer within the cave itself. The settlers' stated aim is to drive Muslims from the mosque altogether.

This gradual take-over has been sanctioned by the government which has provided the settlers with army protection at every stage. This army presence in and around the mosque eventually provided the settlers who perpetrated Friday's massacre with cover to enter the mosque, in army uniform and armed, and slaughter worshippers as they prayed. It was, in effect, a massacre waiting to happen.

The messianic which led to this massacre produced the 1929 massacre of 133 Jews by Palestinians in this town. The messianic incident which sparked off Palestinian protests took place on August 15, also during a Jewish feast. Ultra-Zionist followers of Vladimir Jabotinsky, the font of Likud ideology, proceeded to the western wall where they raised the Zionist flag and sang the Zionist anthem, exacerbating fears that the Jews intended to take over the entire Haram Al Sharif.

This produced counter-demonstrations by peasants fearful that the Zionists intended to lay claim to other Muslim shrines and places of worship. Violence broke out on Aug. 23 throughout the country. The violence in Hebron led to the expulsion of all 2,000 Jews from the town. The massacre and expulsion of the Hebron Jews in 1929 has always made the Israeli authorities lenient with the militant settlers who reassessed the Jewish presence there after 1967.

Soldiers either stood by and did nothing to prevent recent armed attacks by settlers against Palestinian civilians in the centre of the town or actively took the settlers' side (and were shown on CNN covering the backs of settlers rampaging through the market firing automatic weapons indiscriminately).

The 1929 incident at the Haram Al Sharif was repeated on October 8, 1990, when the Israeli extreme Zionist group, the "Temple Mount Faithful", staged a march which led to protests in which 21 Palestinians were killed by the Israeli army and police.

It is standard procedure for the Israeli authorities to punish the Palestinian victims, not the settler instigators or perpetrators. This is because all Israelis to a greater or lesser extent partake of the messianic attitudes inculcated as part of Israeli/Zionist education.

A recent poll taken in Israel showed that 70 per cent of Israelis believe that "the land of Israel" was given by God to the "Jewish people." And because of this attitude no Israeli can be expected to take a firm attitude towards the messianics whatever they do. This is why this time the Palestinian leadership must press its demand that an international presence be established in the occupied

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take a firm attitude towards the messianics whatever they do. This is why this time the Palestinian leadership must press its demand that an international presence be established in the occupied

territories, particularly in Jerusalem and Hebron, at the holy sites, to prevent just this sort of thing from happening. Although the Israelis claim they are able and prepared to keep the peace at these sites, they are by no means neutral: As the Latin saying has it, "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?" or "Who is to guard the guardians themselves?"



### THE WEEK IN PRINT

## Columnists urge House to scrutinise sales tax; call on Yemen to implement Amman deal

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. The Yemeni issue and the Middle East question dominated the themes of columns and editorials in the local Arabic dailies and weeklies in the past week.

Tareq Masarweh said no topic has yet attracted so much attention in Jordan as much as the projected sales tax, whose draft law has now reached the Lower House of Parliament.

Indeed, said the writer, much controversy revolves around the draft law as the public is still ignorant of its details and whether it is of benefit to the nation or not. He said the government ought to publish the details of the law and to explain its benefit and if its application would not result in tax increases, especially to the low income groups.

Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that Parliament members who have received the draft law on the sales ought to scrutinise its detail and should demand that if the law is to be implemented, it must be coupled with a comprehensive tax reform and plans to encourage investments and exports. The writer said that the sales tax is imposed on

the Kingdom by the World Bank, especially as Jordan had accepted the economic reform programme as agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that Jordan has been facing an economic recession over the past months represented in low level trading, especially in the real estate sector. At the same time, people continue to face rising prices of basic commodities and more taxes, said the writer.

The recession is coupled with a rising volume of unemployed Jordanians at a time when the government is seeking to enforce the sales tax, which is being feared as a means to collect more taxes from the public, said the writer. He said that the government ought to help reduce prices, create favourable political and economic climates and take other appropriate steps to end the recession instead of merely increasing taxes.

Commenting on the apprehension of meat merchants trying to peddle bad frozen meat in the local markets, a columnist in the Sawt Al Shaab said that those tampering with the people's

food seem to be still determined to pursue their malpractices for the sake of amassing wealth. Ahmad Dabbas said that the concerned authorities should make inspection as a permanent practice and not a seasonal campaign to prevent contaminated or unfit food and medicine from reaching the public.

A columnist in Al Dustour cautioned Parliament, which is currently debating a new law on landlords and tenants, against taking rash actions, saying that any move to raise the rent for the low income groups would create numerous social problems that would threaten social security in Jordan. Mohammad Kawash, claimed that some deputies who own houses are attempting to raise the rent or to have the right to oust the tenant at any time. He said that a balanced law that would not harm the interest of the landlords and also would not endanger the social security of the country should be passed. Otherwise, he said, the deputies would be playing with fire.

Abdullah Al Khatib, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the concerned authorities and the House seem to be indifferent to the plight of the Jordanian farmers. They

only remember the farmers when an agricultural disaster occurs but they do not direct their attention towards drawing up a strategy that would safeguard the farmers' interests, said the writer. He said that farmers are facing real losses not false losses like those claimed by merchants who try to escape paying income taxes.

Merchants can easily determine the prices of their products and mark a profit margin for themselves. But the farmers are in no position to do that because they do not possess all the elements that ensure the volume of their output. He said that the farmers can be helped through selling the subsidised agricultural requirements like fertilisers and equipment and reduced water cost for irrigation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i tackled the Yemeni crisis, saying that the warring factions have regrettably resorted to arms after they had concluded a document in Amman to give preference to negotiation rather than confrontation. Mohammad Kharroub said that the leaders of the various factions should end the tribal conflict in the spirit of the Amman reconciliation document and to place the higher national

interest above all other considerations.

The fact that representatives of all factions were present at the signing of the Amman document to settle the Yemeni conflict indicates that there is a real intention to end the disputes, said Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab. The writer said that the fact that Amman opened the door for the factions to reach a solution proves that Arab issues could be successfully handled by Arab leaders. It now remains to be seen, said the writer, if the leaders of Yemen are truly and genuinely oriented towards peace by deed rather than words.

Yemeni leaders are called on urgently to enforce the Amman reconciliation document if they want to put an end to the renewed fighting among their troops and tribes, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i. The writer said that the document calls for the principles of equality, justice and human rights to be safeguards and these constitute the best means for bringing back peace to the whole country.

Fakhri Saleh, a columnist in Al Dustour, expressed the view that the existence of the Jewish settlements in the

occupied lands constitute the main stumbling block to a lasting settlement. The writer said the continued presence of the settlements would no doubt cause a heavy burden to the Palestinian autonomy rule because the settlements are in fact besieging the Palestinian towns and villages and the settlers continue to form a permanent threat to the Arab citizens.

The Arab-Israeli peace talks being held in Washington have not yet given any sign that they would lead to an end to the continued displacement of the Arab masses, said Taher Al Adwan in Al Dustour. There is no doubt that the Israelis are determined to stall over their withdrawal from the occupied lands and to block any discussions with Syria and Lebanon that would aim at a pull out of Israeli troops from the Golan and the Lebanese lands, said the writer.

Given this situation, the Washington parley is bound to end in total failure, he added. The writer said that it is regrettable that as the Israelis persist in their attempts to negotiate separately with the Arab states, no real effort is made on the part of the Arabs to jointly confront the common enemy.



# Massacre in Hebron

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1994 5

## Jordan demands settlements be dismantled

(Continued from page 1)

their respective governments. Deputy Prime Minister and acting Information Minister Said Al Tal described the attack as an "ugly, brutal crime contravening all human values and ideals."

"The attack on worshippers and killing more than 50 of our Palestinian brothers in the Ibrahim Mosque represents an abhorable, bloody and racial trend," Dr. Tal said. He blamed Arab divisions and preoccupation with marginal internal differences for such attacks.

"Such differences have turned the Arab Nation into a nation with no will and decision, a nation whose dignity is hurt and blood is shed without anybody doing anything about it," he said.

Dr. Tal voiced hope that "this painful crime will serve as a lesson for the Arab Nation to wake up and to unite its ranks in order to win the respect of the world."

"Had the Zionist aggressors known that their crime would not pass without a punishment, they would have thought one thousand times before committing their ugly crime," Dr. Tal said.

He called on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and in diaspora to unite, saying that their unity is the genuine answer to all challenges facing them.

The theme for Friday sermons at the Faiha Mosque, delivered by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi also focused on the Hebron massacre.

Sheikh Tamimi denounced the slaughter and called on all Arabs and Muslims to unite in the face of enemies.

He also paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts to heal Arab rifts and noted the monarch's endeavours to end the political crisis in Yemen which were crowned by the Jan. 20 signing of a Yemeni reconciliation agreement in Amman.

The Friday prayers were attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials.

Sheikh Tamimi also issued a statement condemning the massacre in Hebron.

He said in the statement, issued in his name and on behalf of all Islamic judges in Jordan and the occupied West Bank, "we denounce what these beasts, the enemies of humanity and the murderers of prophets have committed and we urge the international conscience to wake up and see how innocent civilians are killed and slain in a place of worship."

"Till when these ugly massacres would continue and what is the fate of the international declaration on human rights?" the statement said.

"As we denounce this criminal act, we appeal to all Arab and Islamic countries, leaders and people, to unify their ranks in the face of this serious challenge and to put aside their differences," it said.

Mr. Tamimi said the attack on the Muslims of Hebron was an "assault against all Muslims of the world and constitutes a challenge to them."

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi expressed his condemnation of the attack and called on the Arab Nation and international institutions to provide security and peace to the Palestinian people.

He urged Arabs to unite their positions "in order to secure all guarantees needed to achieve a just and comprehensive peace."

He called on the United Nations Security Council to provide protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Minister of State Adel Irsheid said Friday's attack was a carefully-studied and organised crime. He called for a wide-scale Arab move capable of preventing such crimes and urged the international community to "protect the Palestinians and put an end to the endless Israeli crimes against our innocent people in the occupied territories."

The Ministry of Awqaf issued a statement denouncing

the crime, saying that it represented the worst aspects of religious fanaticism and a demonstration of hidden hatred against the Palestinian people in Hebron and elsewhere in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The statement added that the attack on Palestinian worshippers "is an extension to the Israeli oppressive and terrorist practices against the Palestinian people."

The statement called for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The Ministry called on Arab and Muslim leaders to unite their ranks and to hold an urgent meeting at the highest levels to face these challenges and to shoulder their responsibilities.

Heads of the Christian community in Jordan also issued a statement denouncing the crime and offering condolences to the Palestinians of Hebron and wishing the wounded speedy recovery.

The statement said: "What makes the crime uglier is that it was committed in a holy place at a time of worship and meditation."

"We call on the United Nations and the international community to provide international protection for our oppressed Palestinian people to prevent the repetition of such flagrant crimes in the future."



Palestinians carry the body of one of the dead at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron at a hospital in East Jerusalem (AFP photo)

## Community leaders denounce massacre

(Continued from page 1)

sacre. Mr. Jaberi, a Hebron notable known for his close ties to the Jordanian government rather than the PLO leadership, said "all Palestinians should withdraw from the negotiations."

Mr. Jaberi headed rows of Hebronites receiving condolences from Jordanian government officials, foreign diplomats as well as political party heads and leaders of popular organisations, union and professional association heads.

Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Al Masri visited the society shortly after news of the massacre spread through Amman. "The speaker gave us his condolences and expressed his outrage at the massacre," Mr. Jaberi said.

But not all visits by officials to the Khalil Al Rahman Society were well received. Leading members of the PLO such as Abbas Zaki, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council Salim Zannoun and FIDA representative in Amman Saleh Raafat were booed and Mr. Raafat was physically attacked during his visit.

The three Palestinian officials were not held welcome, "because they represent the negotiators who are responsible for the massacre," said one Hebronite. The three were rushed out of the society under protection.

The attack on Mr. Raafat

came after Lower House Member Sheikh Abdul Munem Abu Zant called for the "liquidation of the PLO and the establishment of an Islamic leadership for the Palestinian people."

A member of the Palestine Central Council, Mr. Raafat stood up calling for "national unity in this time of mourning." A member of the audience subsequently "got up and rushed towards Mr. Raafat attempting to throw him on the ground," one observer told the Jordan Times.

The attacker was taken away by other members of the audience and expelled from the main hall of the society.

Nominal head of the IAF Abdul Rahman Khalifeh brought many members of the audience to tears with an eloquent speech in which he referred to historic Muslim rights in Hebron and the "humiliation of all Muslims on this day."

"As our brethren knelt at dawn to pray, they became martyrs and we must join them in their jihad to regain the Bait Al Maqdes," said Sheikh Khalifeh.

"It is our jihad against the world Zionist conspiracy led by U.S. President Bill Clinton," said Mr. Khalifeh.

"This proves once and for all that the peace negotiations are dead," added head of the IAF Executive Committee Ishaq Farhan.

Amman based Hamas officials Ibrahim Ghosheh and political bureau members

Musa Abu Marzouk addressed audiences in the Khalil Al Rahman Society and in the professional Associations Complex.

But not all Palestinian parties which have operating offices in Jordan blamed Friday's massacre on the PLO and the negotiations. The Palestine People's Party, one of the three parties along with the mainstream Fateh and Fida to participate in the peace talks, put the blame for the massacre firmly in the Israeli camp.

"We hold the Israeli government and security forces responsible for Friday's massacre," said a statement by the party.

The group called on a halt to negotiations till "settlers are disarmed and international protection is provided for Palestinians under occupation."

Participants in a meeting held at the Professional Associations Complex called for the donation of one day's wages to the families of persons killed or wounded in the massacre and urged the organisation of a blood donation drive for the wounded.

The participants, who included representatives of political and private organisations, also called for the secondment of a medical delegation to the occupied territories to offer medical assistance to the wounded and called for discussing the prospect of bringing to Jordan wounded Palestinians to receive treatment in Jordan.

## Mystery over fate of gunman

(Continued from page 1)

on a hilltop on the outskirts of town, dozens of ambulances and private cars kept streaming into the parking lot crowded with thousands of Palestinians seeking word on the fate of their relatives.

The hospital was soon surrounded by Israeli troops seeking to disperse the crowd and enforce a curfew. Anguished Palestinians in the fenced parking lot and on nearby roof tops pelted the soldiers with stones, cursing the Israeli army and leader Yasser Arafat.

Militants using loudspeakers urged the crowd to step up the

violence and "confront the soldiers."

Doctors from the hospital argued for calm.

"Please, we don't need more dead, we don't need more wounded," one pleaded, "please use your heads, not your hearts... enough is enough."

Soldiers began opening fire, and over the next two hours pumped hundreds of rounds into the parking lot, until a ceasefire was negotiated by army officials and Palestinian leaders.

In one incident, a helmeted soldier in a nearby olive grove

aimed his M-16 rifle at a group of five stone-throwers on a rooftop, hitting one in the head. The victim collapsed and people nearby started screaming. "He was killed, get the stretchers."

Another stone thrower near the fence was struck in the head by a bullet.

In the chaos, Palestinians on rooftops threw buckets of water at people in the parking lot below to force them to step aside and make room for arriving ambulances.

Doctors over loudspeakers announced the blood types for which donors were sought and hundreds of people lined up. Several hours after the shooting, hospital officials posted a list with the names of those killed at the gate.

## At least 60 gunned down

(Continued from page 1)

and then fainted," said Palestinian worshipper Ahmad Jabari, 50.

Sharif Zahdeh, 27, who was shot in the chest, told reporters in Al Ahli Hospital in Hebron that he was kneeling when he saw a man in military uniform shooting at the worshippers. But he said firing appeared to come from other directions as well.

The army poured extra troops into the occupied territories and clamped a curfew on Hebron, a city of 50,000. It also sealed off the Gaza Strip and banned Palestinians under age 50 from entering Jerusalem.

Despite the crackdown, clashes erupted and 10 Palestinians were killed, most by army gunfire, Arab hospital officials said.

Most of the violence was around Hebron, where thousands of relatives gathered at two hospitals and pelted troops with stones, screaming "Allahu Akbar."

Four Palestinians were shot and killed by troops outside Al Ahli Arab hospital.

In Jerusalem, 120,000 Muslims attended Ramadan prayers at the Al Aqsa Mosque, and thousands protested afterwards throwing stones at police who responded with tear gas.

Israeli cabinet ministers called for tough army action to separate Israelis and Palestinians.

"This not only comes at the wrong time, but it can also drag us into an uncontrollable reality... unless all the security forces show maximum control in the field," said Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer.

Shai Bazak, spokesman of the settlers council, condemned the shooting spree.

Ron Schechter, in charge of security for the Jewish settlements near Hebron, said tensions began to rise Thursday night when Jewish and Muslim worshippers poured into the Tomb of the Patriarchs. Each side was observing a major holiday, Ramadan for the Muslims and Purim for the Jews.

Police said a Palestinian hacked to death an Israeli with an axe near Tel Aviv and made off with his gun.

Doctors in Hebron and Jerusalem hospitals reported 113 people treated for bullet wounds, most of them hurt in the mosque.

More than 100 Palestinians were shot and wounded in Gaza Strip, about a dozen seriously.

In Jerusalem's Old City hundreds of Palestinians staged running battles with security forces.

Palestinian sources said 47 Arabs were injured and police counted 13 of their number hurt by rocks which rained down after prayers at Al Aqsa.

## Jordan holds Israel responsible for massacre

(Continued from page 1)

Stressing Jordan's support for the Palestinian people, the Cabinet offered condolences to the families of those killed in the massacre and to the Palestinian people. It also called for unifying Arab ranks and mending fences among Arab countries in order to reach a unified Arab stand which could give momentum to the peace process. It also urged the Jordanian people to unify their ranks to face the challenges.

During its meeting, the council was briefed on the contacts made by the Jordanian government with the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, European countries as well as Arab and Muslim states on the incident.

The Cabinet declared a three-day mourning period during which flags over ministries and government departments will be lowered. It also decided to stop work for two hours Saturday from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The Cabinet also decided to offer donations to the families of those killed in the massacre, with the ministers expressing their will to offer personal donations. It also decided to set up a higher national

committee which will supervise the process of gathering funds for the families of those killed and wounded. The committee will be chaired by the chief Islamic justice and will include as members the secretary general of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development, the director general of the Department of Palestinian Affairs, the president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies as well as representatives of the Amman Chambers of Industry and Commerce.

The Council of Ministers also decided to form committees to gather donations in other governorates and to present all the needed medical assistance to the injured and to send medicine and medical equipment to all hospitals in the occupied territories.

The Amman Chamber of Commerce Friday asked merchants to close their stores Saturday between 12 noon and 2 p.m. and to raise black flags as a show of mourning of those killed in the Ibrahim Mosque. Chamber President Mohammad Asfour said the chamber was studying other means to express solidarity with the martyrs' families.

## Clinton summons negotiators to talks

(Continued from page 1)

and demonstrations and maintaining a low profile," the advisory said.

A State Department spokesman, David Johnson, said Mr. Christopher issued a statement offering "our sincere condolences to the families of those who were killed and wounded by this senseless violence on sacred ground and urge all sides to exercise calm, reason and restraint."

The secretary of state said that "we believe it is essential to redouble the efforts to conclude the agreement which will begin implementation of the declaration of principles. This is the best answer to those who would use violence to undermine the hopes and aspirations of all those who desire peace."

Mr. Arafat rejected Israel's apologies and warned the massacre would backfire on the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Rabin called Mr. Arafat in Tunis to express his regret and condemnation. According to Israeli Radio, Mr. Rabin said: "As an Israeli, I am ashamed of this deed."

He denounced the attack as "an abominable and brutal murder" and promised to "increase efforts" to implement the Sept. 13 agreement.

"That's not enough. Condemnation and regret are not enough," Mr. Arafat told Mr. Rabin in English. "We need specific measures to be taken" to disarm the settlers, according to an Arab ambassador, who was in Mr. Arafat's office when he took the call.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a senior aide to Mr. Arafat, said the Palestinian leadership did not believe Israeli claims that a lone settler with a "mental crisis" was responsible for the shooting.

"No sane person can believe that one man could kill" so many people, Mr. Abed Rabbo told a news conference. He said the PLO had obtained information that 20 to 30 settlers attacked the mosque.

Another Arafat adviser said the killing could spell an end to the peace process. "I do not think there is any feasibility in continuing the peace process

with Israel," said Jibril Rejeib, a security advisor to the PLO chairman.

But Mr. Arafat was more cautious, warning in an interview with Cable News Network of "a very negative backfire on the whole peace process."

Mr. Arafat called for a U.N. Security Council meeting to discuss the killings, and international peacekeepers in the occupied territories.

Jibril Rajub, an aide to Mr. Arafat, warned that the massacre "sounded the death knell of the Oslo accord" struck by Israel and the PLO last year.

"The peace negotiations have been effectively suspended," said Mr. Rajub, West Bank representative of Mr. Arafat's Fateh faction and a native of Hebron.

The negotiations "fell with the Palestinians hit by bullets in the mosque of Ibrahim," he added.

However, another Arafat aide, Sakher Habash, said the autonomy negotiations would continue despite the massacre.

"These acts show that peace is needed urgently," said Mr. Habash, a member of the Fateh Central Committee.

The PLO also declared three days of mourning and a general strike in the occupied territories after the massacre.

A senior PLO envoy demanded that Israel disarm Jewish settlers in the occupied territories to save the peace negotiations.

Leila Shahid, delegate-general of Palestine in France, said the 120,000 armed settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip shared many of the prerogatives of the Israeli army and had been responsible for numerous previous attacks on Arab civilians.

"If these settlers had been brought under control years ago, things would never have reached this point," she told Europe-1 radio.

"So Israeli political and military leaders bear an enormous responsibility today to disarm the settlers, otherwise other massacres of this kind will occur in the days and weeks to come," she said.

## Hardline groups vow revenge for massacre

(Continued from page 1)

"Arafat should learn a great lesson from what happened today and put an end to the Cairo-Oslo accord and join others to achieve national unity," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

Abu Ali Mustafa, deputy leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said: "The massacre is one of the fruits of Arafat's false peace."

"It also proves that the Gaza-Jericho deal is aimed at protecting the settlers and settlements and strengthening Israel's control over the Palestinian territories."

Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), said: "Violence would only lead to violence. The Jews and settlers should expect similar reaction to what happened today."

He said the massacre was committed by six settlers and not only one as reported. "We are sure that Israel would say those who committed the massacre were insane and I wonder how six insane would agree to commit the massacre together," Mr. Jibril said.

Iran, which opposes the peace talks and backs militant groups, declared three days of



Palestinians carry the dead from the Ibrahim Mosque to burial at Abu Tor cemetery

mourning.

A group formed to oppose the autonomy accord. Black September 13, vowed to "commit a series of attacks against Jewish institutions inside and outside the occupied territories" until the collapse of the self-rule deal.

The attacks will take place in the next few days, said an anonymous caller to AFP in Amman identifying himself as a member of the group.

From now on "all settlers are legitimate targets" for

Palestinian militants, he added.

Black September leader Munir Maqdash, who is based in Lebanon, blamed Mr. Arafat's policies for the massacre and said that he "has no other choice than to shoot himself in the head and commit suicide."

A clandestine group threatened Mr. Arafat.

"The traitor Arafat will not be the only one to pay the price over this massacre. Jews in their synagogues will also pay," the Revolutionary Army

for the Liberation of Palestine said in a statement.

The Hebron massacre was the result of the "odious policies of the United States, and its allies, namely (Egyptian President) Hosni Mubarak," the group said.

Mr. Jibril urged Arab and Islamic countries to react against Israel.

"Has not the time arrived for Arab and Islamic nations to rise and support Palestinians in their struggle against America and the Zionist regime?"

## Massacre globally condemned

(Continued from page 1)

sake of peace.

Norway, which helped broker the historic Israeli-PLO peace accord last year, said it was shocked by the massacre.

"I am deeply shocked by the news," Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal said in condolences to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"I hope that the parties in the ongoing peace process do not let this deeply tragic event influence their further work," Mr. Godal said, adding that he was about to speak to Mr. Arafat to express his sympathy with the Palestinian people.

France condemned the killing as a "hateful crime" and cautioned against an escalation of violence.

"France vigorously condemns this hateful crime perpetrated in a place of prayer," a foreign ministry spokesman said in Paris.

He told reporters that France called on all parties "to show restraint and asks them to do all they can to prevent an escalation of violence."

"France remains convinced that only a just and global peace accord can put an end to tensions and clashes," he said.

"In these circumstances, it encourages all parties to persevere resolutely so that more progress is achieved in the peace process," he said.

The Vatican condemned the murder and said it hoped the massacre would not prolong suffering and hatred in the Middle East.

"This was an act of gratuitous violence, aggravated by the fact that it was carried out in a holy place, and against people who were praying," the Vatican said in a statement.

"One hopes that it does not prolong any further the suffering and hatred in a land that has already endured too much," it added.

"The Holy See cannot but strongly condemn an action... that has caused such a large number of victims."

The European Union's (EU) Greek presidency used similar language.

The Greek government and the Greek presidency of the EU express their strong concern over the Hebron incident and we express the hope the peace effort will continue," government spokesman Evangelos Venizelos told reporters in Athens.

Austria's small Jewish community expressed shock at the murder and said its members were praying for the survival of the Middle East peace process.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali sharply condemned the massacre and called on Israel to prevent Jewish settlers from committing other criminal acts.

Dr. Ghali, in an official statement released in New York, expressed deep concern over the attack in Hebron and the effect it might have on the Middle East peace process.

He called for calm by all sides in the negotiations and

the immediate implementation of the declaration of principles for Palestinian autonomy hammered out in Middle East peace talks.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi accused the Israeli government of masterminding the massacre.

In a statement distributed by the official JANA news agency, Colonel Qadhafi said that the massacre "is a horrible terrorist crime... officially planned by the Israeli government."

JANA announced that Libya was in mourning. Prayers for martyrs were recited in mosques across the country. The official radio and television cut away from normal programming and switched to mournful music and recitations from the Koran.

Egypt strongly condemned the massacre and endorsed the PLO's call for an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the attack confirms the need for assuring Palestinian security "and not that of Israel alone."

Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary-general of the Cairo-based Arab League, said the league "holds Israel totally responsible for the souls who were killed this morning."

"This incident confirms once again the settlers' indifference to the law and the Israeli authorities' disregard of the settlers' crimes, which leads to dangerous escalation and

threatens the peace process," Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

Syria blamed Israeli leaders for the massacre.

"The Israeli government cannot shirk responsibility for the crime at the Tomb of the Patriarchs by blaming an extremist," official radio said.

"The responsibility falls on the leaders in Tel Aviv who want to keep occupied Arab territories, and who encourage settlers to move there."

It said "Zionist terrorism" had been going on since the creation of Israel in 1948 and would do so until "international law prevails."

The human rights group Amnesty International called on the Israeli government to order an independent judicial inquiry into the massacre.

"Serious questions are being raised as to how it was possible for an armed individual to enter the mosque, which is supposed to be guarded by Israeli forces and has long been known as a potential target for similar acts of violence," Amnesty said.

"In recent months, there have also been repeated complaints about Israeli settlers being allowed to carry out other acts of violence (... with impunity, sometimes in full view of Israeli forces."

"Only an independent, thorough and impartial judicial inquiry could remove any suspicion that, despite public pronouncements, the Israeli authorities are effectively condoning such violence," the organisation concluded.



## Kuwait mulls indirect taxes to close budget gap

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis, long renowned by big welfare benefits, are asked to pay some form of tax for the first time to close a Gulf war-inflated budget deficit.

Income tax — as yet unknown in the emirate — remains off the agenda. But an oil price slide and the halving of reserves during the 1990-1991 crisis over Iraq's seven-month occupation of the emirate have made planners consider indirect levies and taxes in what was once the world's richest country on a per capita basis.

A prolonged oil price squeeze could coincide uncomfortably with big debt service payments due over the next two years and inflate a 1993/94 deficit of 1.2 billion dinar (\$4.0 billion) that is already equal to a fifth of gross domestic product.

"We have planned to impose new charges or hike the existing ones on various public services," finance ministry assistant undersecretary for budget affairs, Abdul Aziz Al

Roumi, told the Arab Times newspaper. "These include electricity, health, the airport, highways and others."

He added the ministry was also studying the possibility of introducing some form of tax. He emphasised Kuwaitis would not be required to pay taxes or increased fees unless the government had first cut what he called unnecessary spending.

Parliament's finance committee last year studied imposing some form of tax on firms and on the wealthy, but income tax was not an option. Company tax is levied only on foreign firms.

Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan last month said he expected a 210 million dinar (\$705 million) shortfall in oil revenue in 1993/94 because of a year-long slide in oil prices.

The country of 1.5 million has long been used to generous welfare with free or minimal-cost public services built on oil revenues. Education and health ser-

vices are free for Kuwaitis and power and water and petrol are heavily subsidised. Most Kuwaitis expect to gain government jobs on leaving school.

But Gulf war-related costs more than halved state overseas assets and cut investment returns that at times in the mid-1980s exceeded oil revenues. Oil income lost during the Iraqi occupation hastened the drain on state coffers.

Further strains on the public purse come from a population growth rate of more than three per cent among the 620,000 Kuwaiti citizens, 60 per cent of whom are believed to be under 20 years of age.

Any more in the direction of levies or taxes is likely to be cautious and gradual in view of their potential unpopularity among a population used to cradle-to-grave welfare.

The government has been quick to stress it would make sure any new levies or fees would not harm less well-off Kuwaitis.

## Britain tries to head off Malaysian trade boycott

LONDON (R) — Britain tried Friday to head off a damaging trade boycott by Malaysia, threatening contracts worth billions of pounds (dollars) in a row over aid for arms.

"We are extremely concerned," said one senior British official. "What we are trying to do is seeking how we can use diplomatic means to avert what may become otherwise a crisis."

They stressed there was no question of retaliation. "No one is talking embargoes or sanctions," another senior British government official said.

Malaysia earlier banned British companies from government contracts — including a \$3.5 billion airport — saying it was sick of British press allegations of corruption and a saga over alleged linking of aid donations to a big arms purchase.

Foreign Office Minister Alastair Goodlad told parliament Britain wanted to defuse the crisis and allow trade to flourish.

There is no good reason for the Malaysians to make a connection between British press reporting and the conduct of trade between Britain and

Malaysia," Mr. Goodlad said. "Trade is justified on its own merits to the benefit of both countries."

Malaysia, he said, had to understand that Britain had a free press to which the government could not dictate.

The ban marked a return to the bad old days of Britain's relations with its former colony a decade ago. The British-educated Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad imposed a "buy British last" policy when London introduced fees for foreign students in 1981.

Former prime minister Margaret Thatcher personally smoothed over that row in 1988 agreeing a £1 billion (\$1.48 billion) arms deal with Mr. Mahathir.

At the same time Britain offered its largest-ever single aid donation — £234 million (\$345.6 million) for a controversial hydro-electric project, the Pergau dam.

An alleged linkage between the two agreements, admitted by one British minister, has fuelled a row in Britain over alleged misuse of the aid budget to promote arms sales. That row has been compounded by press reports alleging bribes to Malaysian ministers.

Mr. Goodlad told parliament there was nothing illegal about the dam deal and that it had been vital to retaining long term good trade relations with Malaysia.

British trade with Malaysia hit a peak last year with British exports worth £965 million (\$1.4 billion), up 52 per cent on 1992. Britain bought goods worth about £1 billion per cent on 1992. Britain bought goods worth about £1 billion (\$1.50 billion) from Malaysia.

News of the ban on British firms hit London only hours after the Malaysian air force formally took delivery of 28 British Aerospace PLC Hawk trainer-fighter jets.

British Aerospace (BAE) said it was deeply concerned at the boycott and sympathised with the Malaysian reaction to the British press reports of corruption in Kuala Lumpur.

"We are keeping in touch with the government and we are looking towards the media to be a bit more responsible," said BAE public affairs director Ian Woodward.

The head of the British foreign service, Sir David Gillmore, a former high commissioner to Malaysia, is on stand-by to fly to Kuala Lumpur to

try and soothe the tensions.

"We are trying to defuse this gently," said one diplomat.

Malaysian International Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz was in no mood to hear about press freedom. Britain, she told the BBC, had to do something about the reports.

Kuala Lumpur is particularly upset at a report in the Sunday Times this week alleging bribes to Malaysian officials.

The opposition Labour Party, which has alleged there was an improper link between the arms sales and the Pergau dam deal, relished the discomfort of the government.

"If British trade and British jobs are at risk because of this I believe it is because of the abuse of government by Conservative ministers," said Labour's Jack Cunningham.

David Howell, chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee and a director of construction group Trafalgar House, said it was vital Britain repair the damage with Malaysia quickly if it wanted to keep its foothold in Asia.

"I think they must explain very vividly and clearly to the Malaysian government that this is the way we work and that it should not get in the way of the very constructive trade relationship," Mr. Howell told BBC radio on Friday.

Bankers and analysts said Friday that British companies may lose a chance to take part in some \$20 billion in infrastructure projects in Malaysia following the announcement of trade sanctions.

"Malaysia has a host of major projects including major power stations, toll roads and waterworks which British contractors were looking at," said Martin Locke, senior director of project finance at Morgan Grenfell Asia.

## Tehran Times blames Saudis for low oil prices

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Tehran Times newspaper has charged that high oil production by Saudi Arabia was to blame for weak oil prices.

"Saudi's increased production has glutted the market and caused oil prices to fall from \$18 to \$12 per barrel in 1993," The official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted the paper as saying.

"Considering the estimated Saudi production increase, and its refusal to cooperate with other OPEC members to stabilise the overall production level... it would be unrealistic to expect a fair price for oil any time soon," the paper added.

It said that if Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil ministers failed at their March 25 meeting to reach "an agreement to lower production levels... crude prices could fall to \$11 per barrel."

"Reaching a consensus on production levels is contingent upon the realisation, by over-producers, that regional and national interests have the highest priority when it comes to political and economic policies," the newspaper added.

Saudi Arabia has not said whether it would go along with an OPEC production cut for the April-June quarter, a period when oil demand falls because of the end of the northern winter.

Iran has in the past been critical of the fact that Saudi Arabia boosted its production by about three million b/d after the Gulf war, but the Saudis say they are simply restoring their former output levels.

## Dollar seen strengthening against European currencies

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

### Overview

FUNDAMENTAL VIEW: The dollar has rebounded to the 105 level against the yen, but the impasse between the U.S. and Japan over trade issues continues to create uncertainty about the outlook for the yen. We would not be surprised to see the yen pull back a bit in coming months if the U.S. and Japan make some progress on easing trade frictions. But prospects for large current account surpluses to persist suggest that yen strength will continue and perhaps intensify over the coming year.

We maintain our 6-month target of JPY/USD 100 and our 12-month target of JPY/USD 95. We continue to look for the dollar to strengthen against European currencies over the coming year as European interest rates decline, and look for the dollar to trade at the DM/USD 1.85 level by this time next year.

Technical View: The U.S. dollar was clearly on the defensive during the week ended Feb. 18 as the greenback lost ground against five of the six major currencies that we most regularly discuss. In the end, the dollar index fell 2.1 per cent for its biggest week-to-week loss since April of last year. The dollar's weakness has aided sentiment as short term readings are now generally at or near oversold readings. However, both short and medium term momentum oscillators have a downward bias. While we continue to think that the greenback is positioning itself for a strong rally over the longer term, the immediate pressures remain downward but will probably be reasonably well contained. The dollar's movements against individual currencies should probably be monitored more closely than the index. Important resistance exists at 97.50-98.00. Nearby support is just above 94.00, with benchmark support at 90.29.

### Japanese yen

Fundamental View: The yen has pulled back to the JPY/USD 105 level after rising to JPY/USD 101.3 in mid-February in response to a highly publicised impasse in U.S.-Japan trade negotiations. The U.S. continues to threaten trade sanctions, but has no far refrained from deliberately talking up the yen. The yen is likely to remain highly sensitive to U.S.-Japan political tensions in coming weeks. Trade concessions by the Japanese could lead to a pullback in the yen, while lack of progress in boosting imports would likely require a stronger yen to restrain Japanese exports. The recent rise of the yen could also push the Bank of Japan to a 0.5% or 0.75% cut in the discount rate, which we expect will be needed in any case in coming weeks. Although trade tensions have served as the catalyst for the latest move in the yen, we have

argued for some time that persistent current account surpluses would bring renewed upward pressure on the yen.

Even if Japan agrees to some market access measures for U.S. companies, we still expect it to post a current account surplus of nearly \$120 billion this year. That should help the yen to continue to trade in the JPY/USD 100-to-110 range for most of this year and we expect it to reach a level as high as JPY/USD 95 by this time next year.

Technical View: The Japanese yen gained 3.1% against the U.S. dollar last week, and — for the fourth week in a row — was the strongest currency of the six we most regularly monitor. This allowed the currency to test the August high near 101/USD. Both short and medium term momentum of constructive, with the former at its most overbought level in 12 months. Sentiment indicators are deteriorating, but are still only neutral. This new-found strength is likely enough to allow for new highs, a rally much through 101 would allow for at least 98. Although benchmark support remains 113-114, intervening support at 105-106 and 109-110 will likely be a more important focal in coming weeks.

### Deutschmark

Fundamental View: The dollar remains stuck at the DM/USD 1.72 level, having pulled back against the DM in sympathy with its sell off against the yen. Despite the recent 25 basis point hike in the Fed funds rate in the U.S. and a 0.5% cut in Germany's discount rate to 5.25%, the Bundesbank's delay in cutting its key repo rate has helped support the Deutschmark at a time when U.S.-Japan trade frictions have raised questions about U.S. exchange rate policy.

We do not expect another cut in Germany's discount rate until May or June, but the Bundesbank is likely to start trimming its repo rate in March from a current level of 6.0%. The outlook for inflation to moderate further looks excellent, especially if the recent wage agreement in the chemical sector sets a pattern for other settlements.

We continue to look for German 3-month money rates to fall to 4.0% or less by early 1995 compared with 5.75% currently. We maintain our 12-month target of DM/USD 1.85, and expect the dollar to reach the DM/USD 1.80 level in 3 months.

Technical View: The Deutschmark rallied 2.3% versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 18. Medium term sentiment readings are near oversold to neutral. Short term momentum has broken to a multi-month overbought level and medium term oscillators are quite constructive. All of this suggests that, even though the dominant long term trend remains down, the immediate pressures in coming weeks should be to the upside. Last week's rally through 1.73 DM/USD allows for 1.68-1.69. The

former resistance at 1.73 is now support.

The markyten cross was little changed for the week, but managed to move under 59.50 during the week for a multi-year low. Momentum is oversold, but confirmed the lows and will have to move back up through the 62.50 over the next few weeks to reverse medium term momentum from down to up. In an environment where both individual currencies are expected to rally versus the U.S. dollar, resistance in the 65.50-66 range will be monitored for a potentially important breakout. A break below 59 would at least nominally set the stage for 55.

### Pound Sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound continues to trade near the US\$/GBP 1.48 level as the dollar remains steady against the Deutschmark. Despite the Bundesbank's surprise discount rate cut on Feb. 17, the pound remains at the DM/GBP 2.55 level due to expectations of another near-term U.K. base rate. Economic indicators released recently point to a slowing economy. Unemployment showed an unexpected rise in January, industrial production in December was disappointing, and inflation was below expectations.

We continue to expect a 25 basis point U.K. rate cut in the second quarter to offset the impact of substantial tax increases on April 1. But we believe this will be the last cut in this cycle. By contrast, we expect short-term German rates to fall by 175 basis points in 12 months, pushing the pound up to DM/GBP 2.70. We expect the pound to depreciate to U.S./GBP 1.46 in 12 months. The Fed is likely to "snug" short-term rates by 25 basis points one or more times this year as the U.S. economy maintains a healthy momentum.

Technical View: The British pound rallied 1.2% versus the U.S. dollar last week. This allowed the currency to effectively hold the low end of its multi-month trading range. Sentiment is near oversold, but has been deteriorating in recent weeks. Short term momentum has been weak, but appears to be bottoming, medium term oscillators are under pressure as well, but have little definition.

As a result, our parameters remain unchanged. A decisive breakdown from the trading range (1.46 U.S.\$) would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42. The area near \$1.50-\$1.51 is the focus of first resistance. A rally through second resistance at \$1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of the long term benchmark at \$1.60. Recent weakness in the DM cross-rate has been confirmed by short term momentum. In addition, medium term oscillators are beginning to deteriorate. The presence of support at 2.53-2.54 allows for a rally, but the condition of momentum suggests that still lower lows ultimately lie ahead.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is an excellent day to engage in activities that you really enjoy. Be alert for unexpected opportunities coming your way and show co-workers that you are conscientious and precise.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find out how you stand with others and do whatever is needed to improve relations. Try to understand your mate's views and harmony will prevail.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make new acquaintances who can help to enrich your life in many ways. Attend a group meeting is worthwhile and meet some interesting people.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Allow time to engage in your favourite hobby with congenial friends and your loved one.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take part in new activities that are fine for you but first know all the facts concerning them. Think constructively.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your mate may have a change of attitude, so go along with new ideas for best results. Take it easy tonight and express happiness with your soul mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Show more interest in civic affairs and gain the respect of others. Make this a most

productive day in any activity which you are involved in.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Improve your environment so that it is more inspiring and brings you greater comfort. Come to a better understanding with mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Listen to what a good friend has to suggest for greater pleasure ahead. Take health treatments and improve your appearance both inside and out.

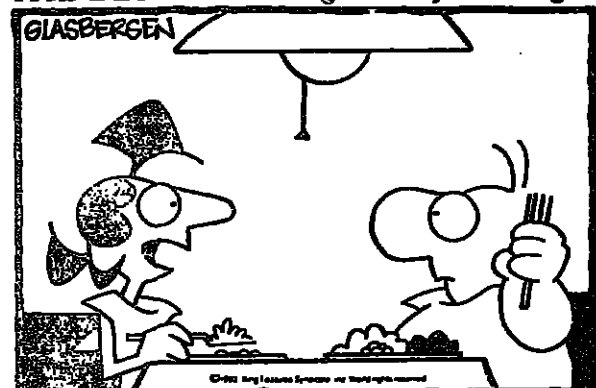
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get rid of whatever is causing disharmony at home and be happier in the future. Put your talents to work and you will have success beyond your belief.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be sure to study a new project well before you put it in operation. Don't take any risks that could prove costly in money and your reputation.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make long-range plans that could give you added income in the future. Come to a better understanding with family members and harmony will prevail.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are likely to be upset about matters you can't change, so concentrate on what ever brings you inner peace and harmony to all that are around you.

## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"It's bad manners to comb your hair at the dinner table — especially with your fork!"

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp

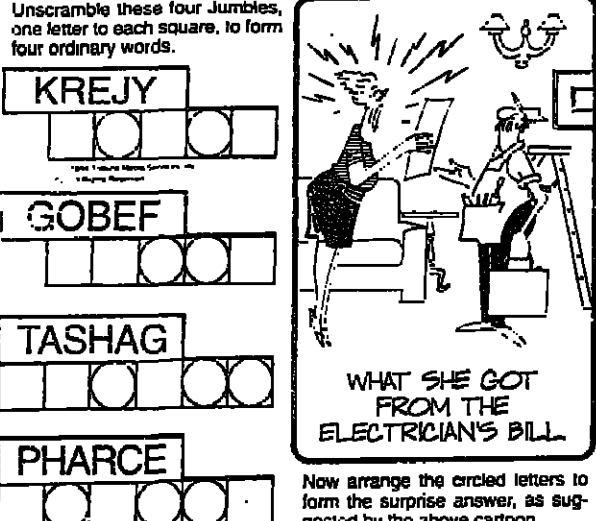


## Mutt'n'Jeff



## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

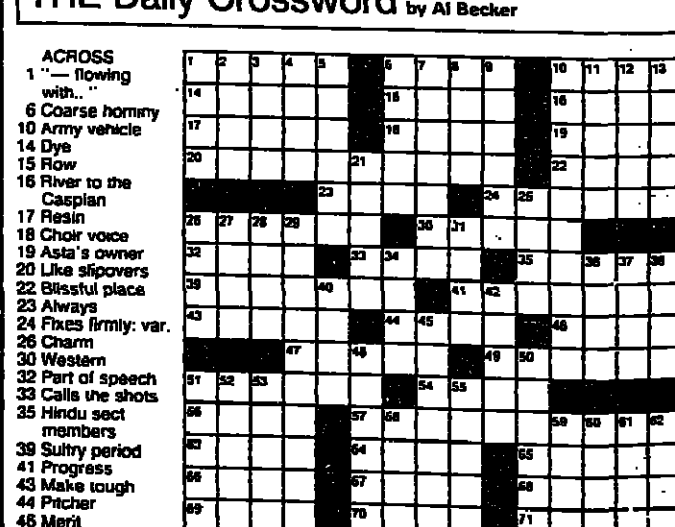
Answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FROZE BALKY ADUCE LIQUOR

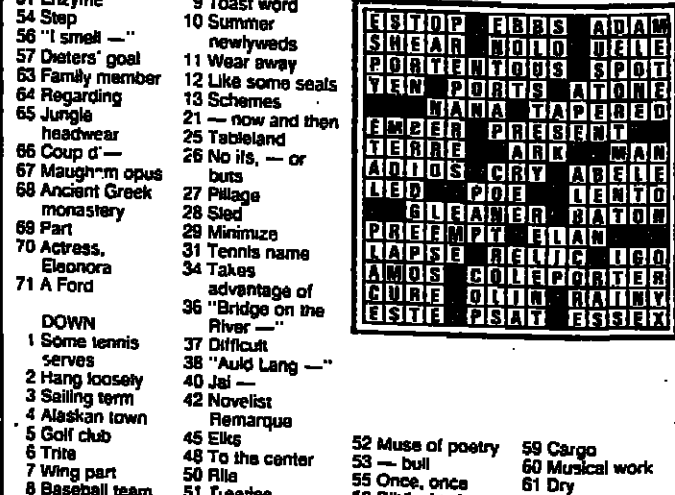
Answer: Another name for the sleeping bovine — A BULL "DOZER"

## THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:





## European market rally depends on German rate cut

LONDON (R) — Europe's government bond markets will only shake off a deep depression and resume their long rally if the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, cuts its short-term interest rates again soon, European analysts say.

"I hope the Bundesbank cuts its repo rate by 20 basis points. If it doesn't do that then I think we are stuck in the medium-term reversal (of the uptrend)," said Philippe Ithurbide, chief economist, capital markets, at Societe Generale in Paris.

The repo rate is the central bank's main instrument for steering the money market and short term interest rates.

On Thursday, bond markets crashed through support levels when a huge rise in American durable goods orders stirred fears that the U.S. will move soon to further raise the cost of borrowing to quell inflation pressures.

British government bonds (gilts) were the worst hit, losing nearly three points, while French government bonds lost ground despite a 10 basis point reduction in the French intervention rate, Friday morning, gilts were nearly half-a-

point higher but other bonds were even lower.

Also on Thursday, share prices tumbled in the wake of bonds. There were few signs of a strong recovery on Friday morning, with stock markets around Europe still nervous and cautious.

European bonds have been on tenterhooks since Feb. 4 tightening of American monetary policy, which reawakened fears in Europe of inflation and an end of falling interest rates.

"The correlation between European and American markets shouldn't be there because (Europe) is at a different stage in the (economic) cycle," said Giancarlo Perasso, senior economist at Credito Italiano in Milan.

But the markets' concern that Europe is close behind the United States in the economic cycle could be offset by a German rate cut.

"The Bundesbank has to lower its short-term interest rates to show it is sticking to an easing policy," said Herbert Fuchs, senior analyst, bond research, at Westcapital in Dueseldorf.

But the Bundesbank may

not cut interest rates while the threat of higher-than-expected January money supply data, and a strike by German metal workers, loom over the market, he added.

"If M3 (money supply) is not so bad and the strike in the metal industry eases or sees a moderate outcome (then the Bundesbank may cut its repo rate)," Mr. Fuchs said.

Mr. Perasso agreed this would help European bonds, adding "we need strong news, something that will change market sentiment."

On a fundamental basis, "we have to go back to lower real interest rates in Europe (as a whole)," said Hans Knol Ten Bense, senior analyst at Kredietbank in Brussels.

But he sees more hurdles to a near-term cut in German rates. "If the Federal Reserve (America's central bank) starts to tighten (more) and as Bundesbank is keen on the stability of its currency, it may keep high real interest rates and that could hamper expansion," said Mr. Knol Ten Bense.

But Philip Tyson at C.S. First Boston (CSFB) in London said the market is already anticipating an easing of German rates.

"Bundesbank cuts that are more substantial than expected ... and an early settlement to the dispute with the German metal workers (would help European bonds recover)," said Mr. Tyson, a CSFB European bond analyst.

Market sentiment would also receive a boost from a

favourable outcome to the trade talks expected to take place between Japan and America at this weekend's Group of Seven (G-7) meeting of the leading industrialised nations, Mr. Tyson added.

Mr. Ithurbide said he was not worried that recent falls marked the beginning of a reversal of the bull trend because "domestic investors haven't

decided to sell in the cash market."

"The drop in the cash market came from foreign speculation," Mr. Ithurbide added.

Selling by American hedge funds, which move their money around world markets, is closely connected to the sell-off, said the head of trading at a major Swiss bank in Zurich. And domestic investors could

help the markets recover, he added.

Mr. Tyson said, though, investors may let the first stage of any rally pass by as they look for reassurance the market has bottomed after its recent drop.

"There's no doubt European bonds will be quite a bit higher but it will be a long haul back," he said.

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## Turkey to fuel exports with foreign debts

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey will pump into exports a major part of foreign loans it plans to tap in the first quarter of 1994, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has said.

She said the bulk of the \$4.5 billion due to arrive from foreign markets up to April would be extended to Eximbank loans.

"We will take shock measures to divert production to exports from the local market. This will reduce our domestic borrowing," Ms. Ciller told a meeting of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry.

"Our priority will be exports and we will use the bulk of our available funds to stimulate investments there," she added.

The growth in exports has

lagged significantly behind that of imports since 1988, mainly due to a currency overvaluation. Exports rose 4.3 per cent to \$15.3 billion last year, compared with a 29 per cent jump in imports to \$29.4 billion.

The lira was devalued by 12 per cent last month after chaos in currency markets triggered by excess liquidity.

Ms. Ciller said a government bond issue on March 21 which will be convertible to shares of the to-be-privatised state telecommunications company, would bring in \$2.2 to \$2.7 billion.

Turkey will tap \$1 billion from a global bond issue on March 6 with the leadership of Merrill Lynch and Salomon Brothers. An international share offer in Fiat-owned car maker Tofas would add some \$500 million, Ms. Ciller said.

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## JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE  
BANKING AND FINANCIAL  
TELEPHONE: 661170 / 661171

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE WEEK (18/02/1994 - 23/02/1994)

WEEKLY REPORT

	VOLUME	PERCENT	PRICE	PRICE
CASH MARK				
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	117,113	102.700	102.86	102.900
JORDAN POSTAL BANK	117,113	102.700	102.86	102.900
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	117,113	102.700	102.86	102.900
JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK	117,113	102.700	102.86	102.900
JORDAN AGRICULTURAL BANK	117,113	102.700	102.86	102.900
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	117,113	102.700	102.86	102.900
JORDAN TRADING BANK	117,113	102.700	102.86	102.900
JORDAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	117,113	102.700	102.86	102.900
JORDAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	117,113	102.700	102.86	102.900
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## Buthelezi seeks resumption of talks after latest government offers

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has called for an urgent resumption of deadlocked negotiations, government officials said Friday, raising hopes for a peaceful settlement to South Africa's political crisis.

Mr. Buthelezi late Thursday termed government proposals on the future of the Zulu nation and its king, Goodwill Zwelithini, in two days of talks here as "a basis" for the talks to resume. Home Affairs Minister spokesman Niel Du Bois said.

Mr. Du Bois said the favourable response by Mr. Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and chief minister of the KwaZulu homeland, was a "breakthrough."

Three-way talks between the government, the African National Congress (ANC) and the conservative Freedom Alliance — comprising the IFP, the white right-wing Afrikaner Volksfront and the Bophuthatswana black homeland — broke down earlier this month.

The alliance, opposed to the country's first all-race election on April 26-28 on grounds that it will bury its federalist aspirations, had raised the spectre of civil war.

Zulu King Goodwill who has held a series of talks with President F.W. De Klerk over the past five weeks, had come to the brink of announcing the

secession of KwaZulu and surrounding Natal province, saying he was reclaiming his nation's pre-colonial boundaries.

The alliance had also rejected a series of last-minute concessions on federalism announced by ANC President Nelson Mandela and endorsed by Mr. De Klerk.

The proposals made here Thursday night — and whose details are not yet known — lays the foundation "for further urgent talks which could open the door for the participation of the IFP in the election," Mr. Du Bois said.

He said further talks would have to take place later Friday, before a meeting of the parliamentary committee to finalise the most recent amendments to the constitution, based on the latest concessions.

After the secret meeting with King Goodwill's representatives, Home Affairs Minister Danie Schutte, who led the government delegation to the talks, had said Thursday night that he believed the new proposals would "accommodate" the king.

"We are committed to ensure the Zulu king is recognised," Mr. Schutte said.

King Goodwill and Mr. De Klerk have met four times since Jan. 17 and once since the king, at a session in Durban on Feb. 14, demanded the restoration of his kingdom to include KwaZulu and Natal.

Sources close to the negotiations did not discount a possible fifth meeting here between the two men following the proposals.

Mr. De Klerk has been trying to persuade King Goodwill, a close ally of Mr. Buthelezi, to accept the new constitutional compromises and encourage his supporters to join the democratic process.

Parliament will convene a special sitting here from Monday to vote into law the compromises, which give provinces stronger federal guarantees and provide for a double-ballot election system that will allow voters to choose separate parties for the national and regional parliaments.

In Durban, Natal's major metropolis, IFP official Ziba Jiyane warned Thursday that his party would not recognise the election results unless the constitution was amended to accommodate IFP demands, including recognition of the Zulu king.

"The king's demand critically affects our participation in the election," Mr. Jiyane had said.

Meanwhile, Mr. De Klerk was quoted Friday as saying he would act firmly to prevent violence disrupting the country's democracy process.

Mr. De Klerk told Britain's Times newspaper in an interview that he had "contingency plans" to deal with unrest. "I don't expect civil war," he said. "I believe that we have

sufficient resources to handle the type of violence one might anticipate.

"We will have to act very firmly. And I'm also convinced that we can rely on the security forces in that regard."

Conservative black and white groups have threatened to boycott South Africa's first all-race elections in April and political analysts say surging violence is creating a climate of fear that could deter thousands from voting.

Mr. De Klerk said he had no regrets about his role in ending white rule because it had averted a devastating revolution in South Africa.

"If we hadn't done what we did, before the end of 1990 South Africa would have been in a state of absolute turmoil, much worse than what is now predicted by pessimists."

"We wouldn't have had the 15-20,000 people on protest marches. We would have had a half a million and a million, as has happened in eastern Europe. We would have had a devastating revolution in South Africa."

In a separate development, Mr. Mandela urged his followers here Friday to stop disrupting the electoral campaigns of other political parties.

Speaking at Kimberley Hospital at the start of a two-day tour of northern Cape province, Mr. Mandela warned that such disruptions would result in an escalation of violence in the country.



South Africa President F.W. De Klerk's bodyguard points at an ANC demonstrator who threw an object at Mr. De Klerk as he tried to address supporters during his election roadshow at Postadene township in the Northern Cape Province (AFP photo)

## Mostar Muslims, Croats observe truce

ZAGREB (AFP) — Shelling in theatres of Muslim-Croat confrontation in Bosnia continued Friday ahead of a midday (1100 GMT) ceasefire, but latest reports said calm had descended at least on the southern city of Mostar.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said 11 artillery and mortar shells had fallen on the Muslim-held eastern sector of Mostar in the morning but small-arms fire was sporadic.

There was also shelling at Vitez and Gornji Vakuf, UNPROFOR spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Aikman said in Sarajevo.

But an hour after the ceasefire was due to come into force, Croatian radio said the situation was calm in Mostar, without a shot being fired in the interval.

The streets of the Croat-held western sector of the city were full of people, and "though it might be too soon to draw conclusions, this augurs well," the radio said, adding that there was "relative calm" on other fronts.

The ceasefire was agreed here last Friday by the commander of the mainly Muslim Bosnian government forces, General Rasim Delic, and the head of the Bosnian Croat HVO militia, General Ante Roso.

It was to be the first step of a process that would include

withdrawal of heavy weapons and the active involvement of UNPROFOR in keeping the two sides apart, similar to the accord reached earlier this month between Muslims and Serbs in Sarajevo.

Gen. Roso and Gen. Delic were due to meet Friday in Kiseljak, 35 kilometres west of Sarajevo, under the supervision of the UNPROFOR commander for Bosnia, British General Sir Michael Rose, U.N. spokesman Major Rob Annink said in the Bosnian capital.

Brigadier-General John Reith, who is to oversee a newly created southwest Bosnian U.N. sector that will cover the ceasefire area, may also attend, Maj. Annink said.

The meeting was to discuss the ceasefire, freedom of movement on roads, withdrawing of heavy weapons and putting them under U.N. control and finally setting up a joint commission to work out the details.

Fighting in southern and central Bosnia has created anarchy that has blocked humanitarian aid.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Kris Janowski said Friday: "If the ceasefire holds, it will make everything easier."

Meanwhile Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic left for Washington Friday for U.S.-sponsored talks on a possible

Croat-Muslim political agreement for Bosnia.

The weekend meeting, which includes Bosnian Croats and a delegation led by Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, the head of Bosnia's Muslim-led government, will focus on a proposal to establish one sovereign state grouping two republics — one Serb and the other Croat and Muslim.

"The concept would be for Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats to arrive at a joint entity," a U.S. State Department official said Thursday.

"This entity would be then linked with Bosnian Serbs," Mr. Silajdzic has been in Washington since Monday, and Thursday's announcement came after his second meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"We are focusing on the possibility of a rapprochement with the Croats," Mr. Silajdzic said. "We believe it to be the first step toward peace in Bosnia."

Differences remain over the form such a joint state would take, however. According to Croatian radio, the Muslims want to maintain a unitary state of Bosnia-Herzegovina, while the Croats prefer the idea of a loose federation.

"The United States insists on a settlement, but doesn't want to force any party to accept something it does not want," the radio said.

## Italy's Northern League 'could go it alone'

ROME (R) — The leader of the federalist Northern League, Umberto Bossi, said Friday that the rich north would secede from Italy if his movement failed to win a slice of power in next month's national elections.

The threat was a shot across the bows of Silvio Berlusconi, the media mogul turned politician with whom Mr. Bossi has joined forces in the north in a shaky alliance to shut out the left in the March 27-28 election.

It also highlighted the fragility of the pact, whose third main force, the neo-fascist National Alliance, is at daggers drawn with the league.

"The desire is ripe among the people of the north to go it alone," Mr. Bossi told the Milan newspaper Il Giornale.

"If the league were to miss victory, or fail to get into government, a centralist revival would be inevitable. The north would be out of it, there would be a split," Mr. Bossi said.

He called Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) movement a collection of "recycled men" — the term used to describe politicians who have fled Italy's corruption-stained traditional parties to join new groups for the election battle.

"The league was the architect of the revolution, the locomotive of change. The others just tagged on," he said.

Mr. Bossi capitalised on the outrage of northern taxpayers by attacking corruption and misgovernment in Rome to make the movement the largest party in the affluent

north. But political commentators believe his wings have been clipped by the entry into the fray last month of Mr. Berlusconi, who has managed to present himself as the only new face in Italy's tired old political landscape.

Opinion polls show Forza Italia as the party with the most support in Italy — about 25 per cent — while Mr. Berlusconi himself has impressed many voters with a simple message of prosperity and clean, honest government.

In an interview on his Rete Quattro Television Network Thursday night, he promised "a holy war against unemployment" and creation of one million jobs in the recession-hit economy.

## Russian revolt leaders may be freed today

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Leaders of the October 1993 uprising in Moscow can be freed from Saturday following publication in official media of parliament's decision to grant amnesty, Interfax News Agency said Friday.

Interfax, quoting Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin, said the amnesty resolution would be published Saturday by the government daily Rossiyskaya Gazeta.

Under prevailing interpretations of Russian law, that publication automatically brings the resolution into force.

The amnesty, approved by the Duma Wednesday, applies to former Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, both accused of leading the October revolt.

It also applies to the 12 former Soviet officials accused of plotting the failed 1991 Soviet coup, jailed participants in bloody May Day riots last year and potentially thousands of other criminals jailed for unrelated offenses.

Interfax said once the amnesty was published in the media, officials must obtain in writing a statement of agreement or disagreement with the text from the accused before they could be set free.

Officials in the General Procuracy Office said Thursday the amnesty was a binding order from a higher authority and would be applied.

Those covered under the amnesty are among President Boris Yeltsin's fiercest political foes and the Kremlin has warned not to expect their release any time soon.

Russia's new constitution appears to give sole authority for proclaiming amnesties to the Duma, but Kremlin legal experts said Mr. Yeltsin legally possessed other powers to override the decision, notably by issuing a decree annulling it.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yeltsin appealed to his people Thursday to unite in a powerful Russian state but his enemies gathered strength even as he delivered a 50-minute televised state-of-the-nation address.

"The time has come for a new political style — trust and constructive cooperation, mutual understanding and coordinated action," Mr. Yeltsin said.

But Russia's new conservative parliament had already delivered its hostile verdict on Mr. Yeltsin's hopes. On Wednesday, the State Duma had annulled all the president's foes from the past.

"Yesterday's decision... is the potential cause of a civil war," said Yegor Gaidar, who resigned as deputy prime minister last month.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Major presses Sinn Fein over violence

BELFAST (AFP) — British Prime Minister John Major has again urged Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, to renounce violence. In an article published in the Irish News here Friday, Mr. Major said most nationalist leaders in Northern Ireland understood that violence no longer had any justification, including John Hume, head of the Social Democratic and Labour Party. Mr. Major asked if Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams shared that view, adding: "If not, why not? The people have the right to know." Mr. Adams could not talk about peace and at the same time block it by continuing to delay his movement's response to the Anglo-Irish declaration issued in December by Mr. Major and his Irish counterpart Albert Reynolds. Mr. Major said.

### Man jumps to death from Eiffel Tower

PARIS (R) — A 22-year-old German has jumped to his death from the Eiffel Tower, the 378th suicide from the Paris landmark since it opened in 1889 but the first since new barriers were erected three years ago, police said Friday. The man, whose identity was not disclosed, jumped from the tower's second floor on Thursday afternoon and was killed when he hit its first floor 60 metres (200 feet) below, police said. The tower is 320 metres (1,050 feet) high. There had been no suicides at the tower since 1991 when authorities erected high metal barriers on all floors.

### Dinah Shore dead at 76

LOS ANGELES (R) — Dinah Shore, whose best-selling records and variety show made her one of the most popular entertainers in the golden age of American television, died Thursday at her Beverly Hills home. She was 76. A spokeswoman said she died after a brief illness but did not elaborate. Born Frances Rose Shore in Winchester, Tennessee on March 1, 1917, she changed her name to Dinah when she first sang on local radio there. Shore, who considered herself a singer first and an actress second, teamed up with Frank Sinatra on New York's WNEW Radio and made records with bandleader Xavier Cugat. She was one of the most popular performers during World War II and performed for American servicemen all over the globe. After establishing a successful radio career in the 1930s she acted in several films, including Thank Your Lucky Stars, Till the Clouds Roll By, Up in Arms and Belle Of The Yukon. But her acting career was short. "I bombed (flopped) as a movie star," she once said. Her last film appearance was in a cameo role in the 1977 George Burns comedy, Oh God. But there was no doubt about her success on television. The Dinah Shore Show on NBC, became staple Sunday night viewing for millions from 1951 to 1957. Shore was married twice and is survived by two children.

### Aristide again rejects compromise

WASHINGTON (R) — Exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has rejected intense international pressure and refused any compromise to end the crisis paralysing his island nation, a statement issued by Mr. Aristide's government-in-exile said he would name a new prime minister only after Haiti's military rulers have stepped down and only with the understanding that he would return to Haiti 10 days after the prime minister takes office. The statement added that a group of five Haitian legislators, touting their own plan to resolve the crisis in a Feb. 19 letter to the United Nations, were opponents of Mr. Aristide were distorting the situation. The legislators want Mr. Aristide to name a new prime minister immediately so that he can organise a new broad-based government that would push an amnesty law through parliament and allow the country's military leader and chief of police to resign. But the plan makes no mention of Mr. Aristide's return. "The letter results in proposing a plan for lifting the (fuel and arms) embargo (imposed on Haiti by the U.N.) and not for restoring democracy," Mr. Aristide's government said. "It provides no date for President Aristide's return."

### Doorman killed outside Belfast bar

BELFAST (R) — A doorman was shot to death in a hail of bullets outside a bar in the Northern Ireland capital of Belfast Thursday night and an outlawed Republican group said it was responsible. Witnesses said a number of gunmen walked up to the doorman and one fired several shots at point-blank range. The bar was packed at the time and customers panic — pints (of beer) went everywhere, tables went everywhere — as people just got down on the ground," said one customer. The gunmen sped off in a car and police sealed off the area. The doorman was the sixth person to be killed by gunmen in Northern Ireland this year. The outlawed Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, later admitted responsibility for the killing. The INLA was formed in 1972 as a breakaway group from the Irish Republican Army.

## S. African mine disasters claim dozens of lives

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Six miners were found dead in a coal mine near Middelburg, 200 kilometres (125 miles) east of here, and 13 others were still missing, Trans-Natal Coal spokesman Laing Geldenhuys said.

The six miners died after five broke out Wednesday night at a coal mine near Middelburg, 200 kilometres (125 miles) east of here, and 13 others were still missing, Trans-Natal Coal spokesman Laing Geldenhuys said.

A search team found the bodies of the men near a refuge bay from where 17 others were rescued late Thursday. They were probably making their way towards the bay, but missed it due to poor visibility, Mr. Geldenhuys said.

In the Orange Free State town of Virginia, 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of Johannesburg, rescue workers were still battling a sea of mud that flooded the suburb of Merriespruit when a gold mine slime dam burst Tuesday night.

## S. Korean president ready to meet Kim Il-Sung

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam said Friday he was ready to meet with his North Korean counterpart Kim Il-Sung, as U.S. negotiators in New York emerged empty-handed from efforts to persuade the North to accept outside inspections of its suspect nuclear facilities.

"I will push forward talks with Kim Il-Sung if that would be helpful in blocking North Korea's nuclear weapons development," Mr. Kim told a press conference here marking the completion of his first year in office.

Asked if that meant he would meet with the ageing leader from the Communist North even before nuclear transparency was ensured, Mr. Kim replied, "yes."

The opposition Democratic Party, which has long advocated a summit between the two Kims, welcomed the announcement as a "step forward in inter-Korean relations."

Mr. Kim, South Korea's first president in 32 years without a military background, previously said the nuclear issue should be solved before any summit, and the South's news agency Yonhap called Friday's statement a "sharp departure" from the president's previous stand.

A presidential palace source however disclaimed that there had been any radical departure, saying "the basic line of our earlier position has not changed."

"We see no reason to avoid summit talks even before the nuclear issue is solved," he said, adding that one could assume that the president "would take the initiative in pushing for a summit."

Hours before Mr. Kim spoke the U.S. negotiator at talks with North Korea in New York said he was heading back to Washington empty handed, after failing to arrange for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to begin an on-site survey of Pyongyang's seven declared nuclear installations.

"There will not be another meeting today," Tom Hubbard, deputy assistant secretary of state for the Asia-Pacific region said.

"I am disappointed to have to report that the DPRK (North Korea) representatives have not yet been able to come up with authorisations to respond to points that we made to them Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning," Mr. Hubbard said. "They have not yet agreed to inspections."

The IAEA Wednesday gave North Korea until the end of the month to set a date for inspections of its suspect nuclear installations, and Mr. Hubbard said the U.S. would keep trying to push for a breakthrough.

All topics including the nuclear issue, economic cooperation and unification between the two hostile nations could be discussed at a North-South

summit, Mr. Kim said at his press conference. He added that the South would be willing to tap its technical expertise and capital resources to "expeditiously pursue joint economic development with the North."

Calling the nuclear impasse "a formidable dilemma," he stressed that care had to be taken to avoid aggravating the situation, and that a decision had yet to be taken on whether to introduce defensive Patriot missiles to U.S. bases in the South.

He also said the joint U.S.-South Korean military exercise Team Spirit would be cancelled if Pyongyang allowed the IAEA team in and agreed to a meaningful dialogue with Seoul on the exchange of presidential envoys.

"The announcement (on Team Spirit) will be made by our government," he added.

North Korea, which heightened world fears that it was developing a nuclear weapons programme when it threatened to pull out of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty 11 months ago, has indicated it will issue visas to the IAEA inspection team if Team Spirit is called off first and if the South makes an initiative on the exchange of envoys.

However, diplomats here and at the United Nations say Pyongyang seems to be trying to drag the issue out as long as it can to squeeze every possible

concession from Washington. Although the North has warmly welcomed a proposal by the leader of the South Korean opposition that he travel to Pyongyang for talks with Kim Il-Sung, North Korea's news agency, KCNA, has in past weeks lambasted Kim Young-Sam as being "no different" from his military predecessors.

North Korea watchers here have said the reactions are typical and aimed at creating political unrest in the South.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sang-Joo warned North Korea Friday that its continued balking at issuing visas to international nuclear inspectors would invite "strong steps" by the IAEA.

"Uncertainty clouds the nuclear issue because North Korea has yet to follow up on its decision to permit nuclear inspections," Mr. Han told a parliamentary committee, accusing North Korea of linking the start of IAEA inspections to a third round of high-level talks with Washington.

The minister's remarks came as talks between U.S. and North Korean negotiators in New York failed to produce an agreement on a date for inspections of the North's seven declared nuclear sites.

Mr. Han said North Korea has delayed the issuance of visas by insisting the third round of talks be held at an early date.

## Bonn MPs give nod to Christo wrap project

BONN (AFP) — Members of the German parliament voted Friday to allow Bulgarian-born artist Christo Javacheff to wrap Berlin's historic Reichstag building in silver fabric. In a free vote untrammelled by party discipline, the Bundestag (lower house) voted by 295 to 226 to permit the New York artist to realise his long-standing dream, costing a total \$6 million. Torched by the Nazis in 1933 and attacked by the Red Army in 1945, the Reichstag was pinioned in the middle of the Berlin Wall during the cold war, caught between two Germanies as a symbol of a nation in search of itself. It was the Reichstag in its cold war aspect that Christo first saw in 1971 on a postcard that provided the spark for his imagination.

## 'If good times roll, good health continues'

LONDON (R) — Wealthy adults are more likely to be healthy than people who had a good start in life, a U.S.-Finnish survey revealed Friday. The survey in the British medical magazine Lancet challenged the commonly-held view that the risk of dying early is determined by factors operating in the womb or during infancy. By studying 2,636 Finnish men aged between 40 and 60, the research indicated that adult socio-economic factors were more important than childhood factors in determining the risk of an early death. "Those in a low-income category were about 2 1/2 times more likely to die from any cause than those in the high-income group, irrespective of childhood socio-economic conditions," the article in Lancet by doctors at the California Department of Community Health Services. The "upwardly mobile" also experienced a lower mortality risk, the survey showed. But researchers were unsure whether their lifestyle became healthier because of their mobility or whether a healthy childhood determined their financial success. The men were asked about childhood conditions when they were 10 but the researchers admitted it was "extremely difficult" to establish retrospective reliable measures of childhood circumstances. Current medical hypothesis is that poverty in foetal and early infancy stages may programme biological structures and processes, resulting in increased susceptibility to disease in later life.

## British police powerless to stop 'kid crook'

LONDON (R) — British police are powerless to act against a 14-year-old boy, dubbed "kid crook", who has admitted burgling 1,200 shops and houses in a £2 million (\$3 million) crime spree, Britain's Sun newspaper reported Friday. The top-selling tabloid said the boy, who could not be named for legal reasons, had stunned detectives with admissions of his two-year wave of break-ins. "But police are powerless to stop him because he is too young to be locked up," the Sun said. "He has been arrested 40 times. But the stiffest penalty the courts can give him is a 12-month supervision order, which he is now serving," the newspaper said. The newspaper quoted detective inspector Tony Kirby as saying: "It is pointless trying to prosecute him, so we gave him the chance to clear his record. I am sure other police forces will want to speak to him when we have finished."

## Unwanted puppy survives in parcel post

EDENBRIDGE, England (R) — The owner of a five-week-old mongrel puppy posted the dog to an animal refuge centre because he could not afford to care for it, British newspapers reported. Surprised staff at the refuge in the south England town of Edenbridge opened what they thought was a normal package on Tuesday to find the puppy unconscious inside. "I can't manage. Sorry," read an unsigned note inside. The Royal Mail warned people not to copy the practice and said the puppy, revived by refuge staff, was lucky to survive at least one night in freezing temperatures in a mail sorting office, having been posted from turnbridge wells 13 kilometres away.







## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Engineers voting extended

AMMAN (J.T.) — The number of engineers voting in Friday's Jordanian Engineering Association elections failed to reach the necessary 51 per cent mark and thus a second ballot for the nine-member council will have to be cast Saturday. Only 5,289 of the associations 12,780 eligible voters cast their ballots Friday despite a highly politicised race for the association presidency. Incumbent President Husni Abu Ghaida, from the conservative Muslim Brotherhood-backed White List, is being challenged by maverick former Member of the Parliament Laith Shbeilat. Mr. Shbeilat, an independent candidate, is being backed by the pan-Arab and leftist Green List. Predictions Friday evening declared an almost clean sweep for the nine-member White List, with only the post for president up in the air between Mr. Abu Ghaida and Mr. Shbeilat. The Green List, which dominated the association for almost three decades before losing its hold on the association to the White List in 1992, is fielding four candidates while the White is fielding nine.

### Former Lebanese militia chief gets hard labour

BEIRUT (AFP) — The head of a former Lebanese militia was sentenced in absentia to seven years of hard labour by a military court here for allegedly collaborating with Israel. A court source said on Friday, Etienne Sacre was accused of "collaborating with the Israeli enemy," the source said. One of his aides, Samir Philippe Nasr, who has been jailed for the past six months, was also sentenced to two years of hard labour on the same charges. Mr. Sacre, who headed the Guardians of the Cedars militia, was accused of having told Mr. Nasr to ask renegade army General Michel Aoun to cooperate with "Zionist circles" and the Jewish lobby in the United States. Mr. Aoun, who lives in exile in France, turned down the request, according to the military prosecutor's findings. Mr. Sacre denied the charges against him in November, but said he was in favour of establishing good relations with Israel.

### World Bank, PLO meet in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Palestinian and World Bank delegates held two days of talks in Cyprus on infrastructure projects to be implemented when Gaza and Jericho come under Palestinian self-rule, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman said on Friday. "The projects under discussion will not exceed \$125 million and are related to the infrastructure of the two areas," Sayer Younes of the PLO mission in Nicosia told Reuters. "We are talking about roads, electricity supplies and other projects during the transitional period and how to channel these funds after the implementation of the peace agreement," he added. Asked whether World Bank-Palestinian talks on reconstruction of Gaza and Jericho would be affected by the killing by a Jewish settler of at least 62 people at a mosque in Hebron on Friday, Mr. Younes said: "No, they shouldn't be affected, they won't be affected. These talks are with the World Bank, not the Israelis." Sixteen delegates from the World Bank and delegates of donor countries joined the talks in the coastal town of Larnaca, which ended late on Thursday. The Palestinian technical committee was headed by Dr. Samir Abdullah of the Palestinian Economic, Reconstruction and Development Council, Canada, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and Sweden were among the donor countries represented, Mr. Younes said.

### 200 rounded up in dawn raid in Assiyut

ASSIYUT (AFP) — Police rounded up nearly 200 suspected Islamic militants on Friday during a vast dawn raid in the troubled city of Assiyut in eastern Egypt, sources close to the security services said. More than 500 policemen took part in the operation, which targeted the Wadiya district of Assiyut, a hotbed of Islamic militancy, 380 kilometres south of Cairo. Several of the fundamentalists, believed to have carried out recent attacks on police and tourists, were found in possession of automatic weapons, ammunition and anti-government leaflets, the sources said.

### Bouez assails U.S. renewal of travel ban

BEIRUT (AP) — Foreign Minister Faris Bouez on Friday criticised the United States' extension of a ban on travel to Lebanon for another six months, calling it unjustified. The Lebanese government has been notified by President Bill Clinton's administration of the new extension of the ban, which was imposed after the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner to Beirut. The ban has since been renewed annually. Thursday's decision was the first time that the ban has been shortened to six months. "The decision is unjustified neither on the security level, where Lebanon does not differ from 90 per cent of the rest of the world, nor on the political level," Mr. Bouez said in a statement released by the foreign ministry. However, Mr. Bouez saw a "positive indication" in the shortening of the travel ban to six months.

### Turkey extends emergency rule in southeast

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's parliament voted early on Friday to extend the state of emergency for four more months in 10 southeastern provinces as part of efforts to suppress a 10-year-old Kurdish insurgency. Turkey introduced emergency rule in 1987, three years after the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) launched a violent campaign for an independent homeland in southeast Turkey in which more than 10,800 people have been killed.

### Nicaraguans reach peace accord

CAULATU (R) — The last of Nicaragua's contra rebels agreed to lay down their arms and are granted amnesty in a peace agreement reached Thursday with the government. The accord, which ends decades of guerrilla warfare in his Central American nation, calls for the rebels to be incorporated into the national police force in exchange for disarming over the next 45 days, government officials and rebel leaders said. Interior Minister Alfredo Mendizola, the government's lead negotiator in the talks, said the accord meant that "at last we have found in Nicaragua true peace... this is the authentic road to national reconciliation."

### Mercouri operated on for lung cancer

NEW YORK (AFP) — Greek actress and government minister Melina Mercouri was in intensive care in hospital here Friday after undergoing an operation for lung cancer, her spokeswoman said. Ms. Mercouri, 69, was operated on for a second time Thursday after doctors detected bleeding connected with an operation earlier in the week to remove a small cancerous tumour from her right lung. After the three-hour operation to stop the bleeding, Ms. Mercouri was recovering well and was expected to return to her hospital room later Friday, spokeswoman Manuela Pavlitov said. Ms. Mercouri had already undergone an operation to remove a tumour from her lungs in 1989, but had continued to smoke cigarettes.

### High-level Israeli team visits Nigeria

LAGOS (AFP) — A high-level Israeli delegation led by a member of parliament, Naomi Chazan, is in Nigeria to discuss bilateral relations with the authorities, a diplomatic source said here Friday. The team is the most senior official Israeli delegation to visit Nigeria since the two countries restored diplomatic relations in May 1992, after a break of almost 20 years, the source said. The delegation, which also includes Yaacov Keinan, the director of the Africa division in Israel's foreign ministry, has presented a message from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to his Nigerian counterpart, Baba Gana Kingibe, on Israel's peace efforts in the Middle East.

## Yemen tension eases as mediators arrive

SANAA (Agencies) — Fighting between northern and southern troops abated Friday as Arab mediators worked to disengage rival military units and save the Arab World's youngest republic from civil war.

Members of the northern General People's Congress (GPC), led by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, said there was relative calm in southern Aryan province, which had been the main scene of the clashes since Monday.

But despite the apparent calm on the weekend, eyewitnesses from the south said there was continuous movement by northern and southern military units to take up position and fortify along the former border lines north of Abyan in case of an outright war.

Abyan province spreads from Aden to the former frontier of North Yemen and South Yemen, borders that were eliminated when the two Yemens merged in May 1992.

Both sides also were attempting to encircle each other and advance towards oilfield regions, according to the eyewitnesses, whose reports were being assessed at GPC headquarters in Sanaa.

Limited casualties have been reported by each side, but independent sources and a Saudi Arabian newspaper that monitors the situation in Yemen closely referred to hundreds killed and wounded.

Mr. Saleh received at his office a Jordanian military delegation, part of a joint Jordanian-Omani commission that has been formed by the two countries to disengage forces.

The Jordanians and Omanis would also help integrate the northern and southern armed forces, which are still divided despite the 1990 merger of the two Yemens.

### Karaki returns

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's advisor Khaled Al Karaki returned from Yemen Friday evening after conveying two messages from His Majesty King Hussein to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh dealing with Jordanian efforts aiming at closing the gaps between Yemeni parties and the need to implement the reform and reconciliation agreement signed by Yemeni leaders in Amman Sunday.

King Hussein stressed in the two messages Jordan's concern about Yemen's unity and the readiness of Jordan and other Arab countries to continue their efforts to implement agreement.

Mr. Saleh voiced his thanks for and appreciation of the King and the Jordanian people's concern about Yemen's unity.

Mr. Beidh also voiced his thanks for the King and pride in His Majesty's role in containing the Yemeni political crisis.

He affirmed his keenness to implement the provisions of the reform and reconciliation agreement.

His Majesty King Hussein Thursday saw off the Jordanian military contingent. The team will supervise the implementation of a Yemeni reform and reconciliation agreement which was signed by Yemeni leaders in Amman Sunday.

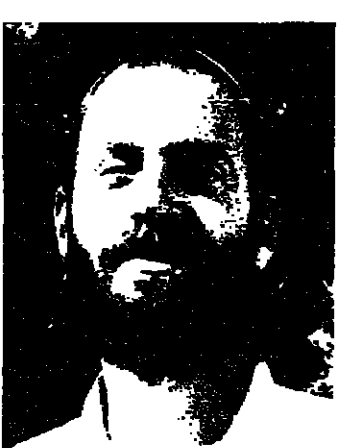
The Jordanian-Omani forces will ensure that the military aspects of the agreement are fully implemented.

The Jordanian contingent was accompanied by the King's advisor Khaled Al Karaki and Assistant Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Major General Eid Kamel Roudan.

(Continued on page 2)

## Hebron gunman was a follower of Kahane

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Baruch Goldstein, the American-born physician blamed for Friday's mosque massacre, was a disciple of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane who preached violence against Arabs and called for their expulsion.



Baruch Goldstein

Friends said that Goldstein, 38, a father of four, was upset after the death of a fellow settler friend in an attack by militants two months ago.

The Brooklyn-born Goldstein immigrated to Israel 11 years ago and moved to the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, a centre of radical settlers located outside the Palestinian town of Hebron.

A graduate of Columbia University, Goldstein belonged to the Jewish Defence League under Kahane's leadership in New York. In Israel he became active with the Kach party founded by Kahane in the mid-1970s, representing it on Kiryat Arba's local council.

As Kiryat Arba's main emergency doctor, Goldstein was involved in treating many victims of Arab-Israeli violence in the area. Doctors who knew him said Goldstein hated Arabs so much he often refused to treat injured Palestinians.

The perversely religious reserves major prayed every morning at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, the Jewish and Muslim holy site where he gunned down at least 60 Palestinians and wounded more than 100.

Afterwards he committed suicide, the army said. Settlers said they found a signed note at the Kiryat Arba clinic which said, "I enjoyed working as a doctor, wishing for full redemption."

David Ramati, a Chicago-born immigrant in Kiryat Arba, said he saw Goldstein, who was a friend, several hours before the attack, at a synagogue reading of the book of Esther. The story, about Jews rescued from a massacre in ancient Persia, is the basis for Friday's Purim holiday.

Goldstein "seemed quite at peace with the world. He sat with his children in his lap. It was a picture of family domesticity," Ramati said.

Noam Arnon, a spokesman for Hebron's Jewish enclave of several hundred families, said he thought Goldstein snapped after the Dec. 6 shooting death of his friend Mordechai Lapid

and Lapid's 19-year-old son, Yisrael.

Many Jewish settlement leaders were stunned and condemned Goldstein. But some sympathised with his sentiments, citing the pressures they faced being under attack by militants since the Sept. 13 Israel PLO accord.

In all, 24 Israelis have died in shootings, most of which were claimed by Hamas, a group opposed to the accord. Before Friday, 65 Palestinians were killed by Israelis during this period.

Goldstein apparently dropped several hints about considering violence against Arabs.

"We talked about the problem continuously," Ramati said.

He said Goldstein had indicated he would not consider Muslim worshippers as innocent victims but rather "potential terrorists."

Israel maintained that Goldstein acted alone, but some Palestinian witnesses said more than one Israeli was involved, and local leaders said the gunman had help from other Israelis, perhaps even soldiers.

An anonymous caller to army radio said the attack was a reprisal for Kahane's assassination in New York in 1990. "Kahane Chai," a group founded in his name, praised Goldstein's action, calling him a "Samson in his time," who "sanctified God's name."

Goldstein is not the first American behind a major attack against Arabs in Israeli-held areas. In 1982, Alan Goodman staged a shooting spree outside the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, killing two Arabs and touching off days of protests that generated numerous other casualties.



ANGUISH: Palestinians raise their fists in pain and anger during the funeral of relatives and friends at Abu Tor cemetery in East Jerusalem

on Friday. The dead were from the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, where one or more Israeli settlers opened fire and killed at least 60 Palestinians early Friday (AFP photo)

## Clinton urges Russia to move quickly on spy case

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton Friday urged Russia to move quickly on his request for "appropriate action" to repair strained ties from discovery of an alleged Russian spy in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Mr. Clinton indicated he intended the Russians to withdraw Russian diplomats who managed the alleged spy, Aldrich Ames, who was arrested Monday on charges of spying for Moscow from at least 1985 to 1993.

"If they do not do that, we will take action and we will take it quickly and it will be apparent what we have done," Mr. Clinton told a news conference. "We think appropriate action will be taken one way or the other."

Russia has basically shrugged off U.S. demands for Moscow to take specific steps in response to the arrest of Mr. Ames and his wife on espionage charges.

Asked why he does not simply expel the Russian diplomats, believed to be two, Mr. Clinton made clear he would do so soon if the Russians do

not. "We intend to take the action that we think is appropriate and you won't have to wait long to find out what that is," he said.

A senior Russian security service official warned Friday Russia could unmask U.S. spies in Moscow in retaliation over the vehement U.S. protests sparked by the Ames spy scandal.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Interfax news agency that Moscow had "compromising documents" on a number of U.S. diplomats and Russians which could be published "under certain conditions."

Mr. Ames, the highest ranking CIA agent ever charged with espionage, and his wife Maria del Rosario Casas Ames were arrested Monday following a two-year investigation.

After announcing the arrests, the United States lodged an immediate protest with Russia and demanded that it recall all Russian diplomats linked to the CIA agent.

In a statement carried by the Itar-Tass news agency the Foreign Ministry suggested

Friday that the row should have been settled through diplomatic channels and not splashed across newspaper frontpages.

Senior politicians should avoid being dragged into a public slanging match over the affair, the ministry said, adding that "contacts between Russia and the United States are close enough" for "any issue" to be raised at the "appropriate level."

The investigation into Mr. Ames had lasted 10 months, ample time for the U.S. authorities to contact their Russian counterparts.

"Our partnership has known several very difficult periods, the latest being the crisis around Sarajevo," said the ministry. "We will also put an end to this misunderstanding," the statement added, calling for a "dignified settlement" of the Ames affair.

Hawks in both camps were trying to use the affair to damage friendly relations established by U.S. President Bill Clinton and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin at their Moscow summit in January, the ministry added.

## Kabul fighting unabated

KABUL (Agencies) — Scores of rockets lit up the nighttime sky as the president's troops and its rivals waged a fierce fight into the early hours of Friday despite an official ceasefire.

Two civilians were killed and five wounded in two houses that took direct hits during the four-hour shoot out that began late Thursday night. But no overall casualty figures were available in the latest round of urban combat between President Burhanuddin Rabbani's men and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's troops.

In a city without electricity, the fighting illuminated the sky above the Kabul River, which served as the front line between Mr. Rabbani's and Mr. Hekmatyar's forces.

Mr. Rabbani controls most of the capital, but Mr. Hekmatyar and his ally, warlord Rashid Dostum, are encamped on the southern and eastern outskirts and have been rocketing the city since launching an attack Jan. 1.

Little ground had been won

or lost, but more than 10,000 people have been hurt and almost 1,000 killed. The city also is suffering food shortages due to a blockade imposed by Mr. Hekmatyar, which keeps trucks from entering the city.

The factions agreed to a temporary cease-fire 10 days ago, but heavy fighting continues to erupt.

It is the Holy Month of Ramadan, so the city has been generally calm during the day when most everyone is observing the traditional fast. But fortified with a meal at sunset, the soldiers often begin shooting after dark.

"Can't anybody tell us when this is going to stop?" wailed one woman as she watched the battle.

### Pakistan closes embassy

Pakistan closed its embassy in Kabul on Friday as a new border clash heightened tension with Afghanistan.

Pakistani Interior Ministry officials said three rockets, fired from inside Afghan territory late Thursday, hit a cus-

toms check post at the north-western Torkham border crossing.

Two guards were injured in the attack. Pakistani forces reportedly retaliated with automatic weapons fire.

The incident was the latest in a series this week which have undermined goodwill built up between the neighbours since the 1979 Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Reports said the rockets were fired at the checkpoint shortly after customs officials turned back some 400 Afghan refugees attempting to enter Pakistan in defiance of new visa restrictions.

The Pakistan government decided Thursday to temporarily close its embassy in Kabul and withdraw diplomats and staff from the Afghan capital after it was ransacked.

Foreign Minister Sardar Asaf Ali, who was in Kabul at the time of attack, said the decision was based on safety concerns for the staff. Diplomats could return if they were assured of safe working conditions in the Afghan capital.

## Hebron — point of conflict and faith

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (AFP) — The city of Hebron where more than 60 Palestinians were killed on Friday is holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians alike as the burial place of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

It was at Hebron that God made a covenant with Abraham (Ibrahim) to lead the chosen people.

When his wife Sarah died he paid 400 silver shekels for the cave of Machpelah to bury her, according to Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament.

Tradition has it that Abraham believed Adam and Eve were buried there.

When he passed away, his sons Ishmael and Isaac buried him there too. The couple were later joined by Isaac, his wife Rebecca, Jacob and his wife Leah.

The cave has thus dominated the history of the town which is today populated by 70,000 Palestinians and 500 Jews.

The cave in 20 B.C. with massive stones and today a huge structure covers the site with stone cenotaphs to the patriarchs, looking more like a fortress than sanctuary.

The original structure had no roof, but at the end of the 6th century the hall of Isaac was enclosed by a Byzantine church.

Jews were allowed to construct a synagogue and the church was turned into a mosque after the Arab conquest of the Holy Land in 638.

The Crusaders destroyed the synagogue, turned the church back to a mosque and massacred Jews and Muslims alike.

By 1260 it was the turn of the Mamelukes to conquer the area reversing the church's status to a mosque again, allowing Jews to return to Hebron, but not to go beyond the seventh step of the eastern wall.

The Mamelukes built the mosque of Joseph and closed for good the entrance to the cave which the Crusaders had explored.

The stairway was destroyed in the 1967 Middle East war when Jews were able to worship freely again at the tomb for the first time in centuries after the population of the town surrendered.

Sixty-seven Jews were killed in Hebron in 1929 massacre as riots swept Palestine. Thirty-five families returned in 1931, but were evacuated by the British in 1936.

The Israeli government banned the reestablishment of the Jews community in Hebron after the war amid fierce opposition by the Palestinians.

However determined settlers forced a compromise in 1972, establishing the settlement of Kiryat Arba in the hills on the edge of Hebron, just a kilometre from the tomb.

By 1979 a group of women and children from the settler occupied an old hospital in the heart of the ruined Jewish quarter. An eight-month sit-in ended with official permission to stay.

## COLUMN

### Anglican bishops to resign over women priests

LONDON (R) — Seven Anglican bishops and more than 100 clergymen have said they were converting to Roman Catholicism in protest against a Church of England decision to ordain women priests. The church, which has 10,500 ordained clergy, removed the final barrier to the ordination of women Tuesday, clearing the way for the first female clerics to enter the priesthood in March. Protesters marked the decision with a mock funeral outside the church's governing body, the General Synod, saying the move reduced the Anglican Church to a Protestant sect. "They feel they can't stay in the (Anglican) Church," said Stephen Parkinson, spokesman for the Forward In Faith alliance of traditionalist priests who said they were converting. "What they can't accept is that the Church of England has the authority to decide that women can be priests. The decision can only be made by the universal church," he told Reuters. The universal church comprises the Anglican, Orthodox and Roman Catholic faiths. The Church of England, headed by Queen Elizabeth, is England's official religion. Forward In Faith said in a statement that seven bishops and 712 priests and deacons had signed a declaration saying they accepted the pope as supreme head of the Universal Church and would seek to join the Catholic faith. "Some might go over in the coming weeks, some not for 10 years," Mr. Parkinson said. The Church of England is offering compensation to those who resign over the issue, and that offer expires in 10 years' time, he added.

### Tire blowout temporarily closes Tokyo airport

TOKYO (AFP) — The Tokyo International Airport closed down its runway for an hour Friday after tires on a North-West Airlines jet blew out during a landing, airport officials said, adding that no one was injured. The officials said seven of 18 tires were punctured and scattered on the runway when the Boeing 747 Honolulu was landing at 2:15 p.m. (0515 GMT) at the airport in Narita 60 kilometres (37 miles) east of Tokyo. The runway was shut down until 3:25 p.m. (0625 GMT), they said.

### More charges dropped against Charles' attacker

SYDNEY (R) — Prosecutors Friday dropped three more charges against the 23-year-old Australian student who attacked Britain's Prince Charles with a blank pistol last month. In the latest court appearance of David Kang, 23, prosecutors for the state of New South Wales dropped two firearms charges after police told the court the starting pistol Mr. Kang used could not be classified as a firearm. One assault charge was also dropped because no witnesses could be called from overseas and the prince would have had to return to Australia to testify he was scared during the attack. Two charges against Mr. Kang of assaulting an internationally protected person were dropped earlier this month and now only one of the originally six charges remains — that he used or threatened to use unlawful violence against the prince. But the director of public prosecutions for New South Wales added the charge of offensive behaviour Friday against Mr. Kang. Mr. Kang leapt from a crowd and ran towards Prince Charles during a ceremony in Sydney on Jan. 26, firing two shots from a starting pistol before tripping. Police and state officials subdued him before he could reach the prince.

### Rapist father gets 12 years

MARSEILLE, France (AFP) — A 46-year-old bartender here has been jailed for 12 years for raping his stepdaughters aged 15 and 13. The elder girl told the court in detail how she was raped every other day. Part of the evidence was a cloth she had kept which the man used to wipe himself afterwards. There was also a tape-recording of her begging him to tell the truth to the rest of the family.